

Hafa Adai!

2 in FSM awarded graduate scholarships to Sophia University. **PAGE 2**  
61-year-old accused of molesting minor pleads not guilty. **PAGE 3**

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# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXI, Issue No. 128

www.saipantribune.com

WEDNESDAY JUNE 30, 2021

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## Another 2-week medical leave

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Department of Public Safety Commissioner Robert Guerrero reportedly intends to take an additional two-week medical leave, which could further delay the budget hearing process of the department.



Guerrero

Guerrero informed him of his intention, soon after Manglona sent him a courtesy message last week to see if he can at-

» **Sablan wants to see to a doctor's note**  
» **Babauta: Allocate \$1 for commissioner's post**

tend the budget hearing for DPS because the two-week medical leave that Guerrero had first taken is nearly over.

This development prompted Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) to recommend allocating just a \$1 budget for  
**See ANOTHER on Page 4**

### AT A GLANCE

As of 6:17pm, June 29, 2021

#### VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population **63.7%**  
Fully Vaccinated: **63.7%**

Pfizer/BioNTech			
Initiated:			<b>25,033</b>
Fully Vaccinated:			<b>22,751</b>
Moderna			
Initiated:			<b>4,090</b>
Fully Vaccinated:			<b>3,804</b>
Janssen			
Fully vaccinated:			<b>430</b>

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	<b>8,344</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8,348</b>
Recovered	<b>8,122</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8,126</b>
Active	<b>78</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>82</b>
Deaths	<b>140</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>140</b>
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			<b>176,658</b>

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	<b>183</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>183</b>
Traced via Travel Screening	<b>147</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>147</b>
Traced via Community Screening	<b>36</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>36</b>
Deaths	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			<b>26,131*</b>
Days since last community transmission			<b>98</b>

\*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

House Ways and Means Budget chair Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) said in an interview yesterday that

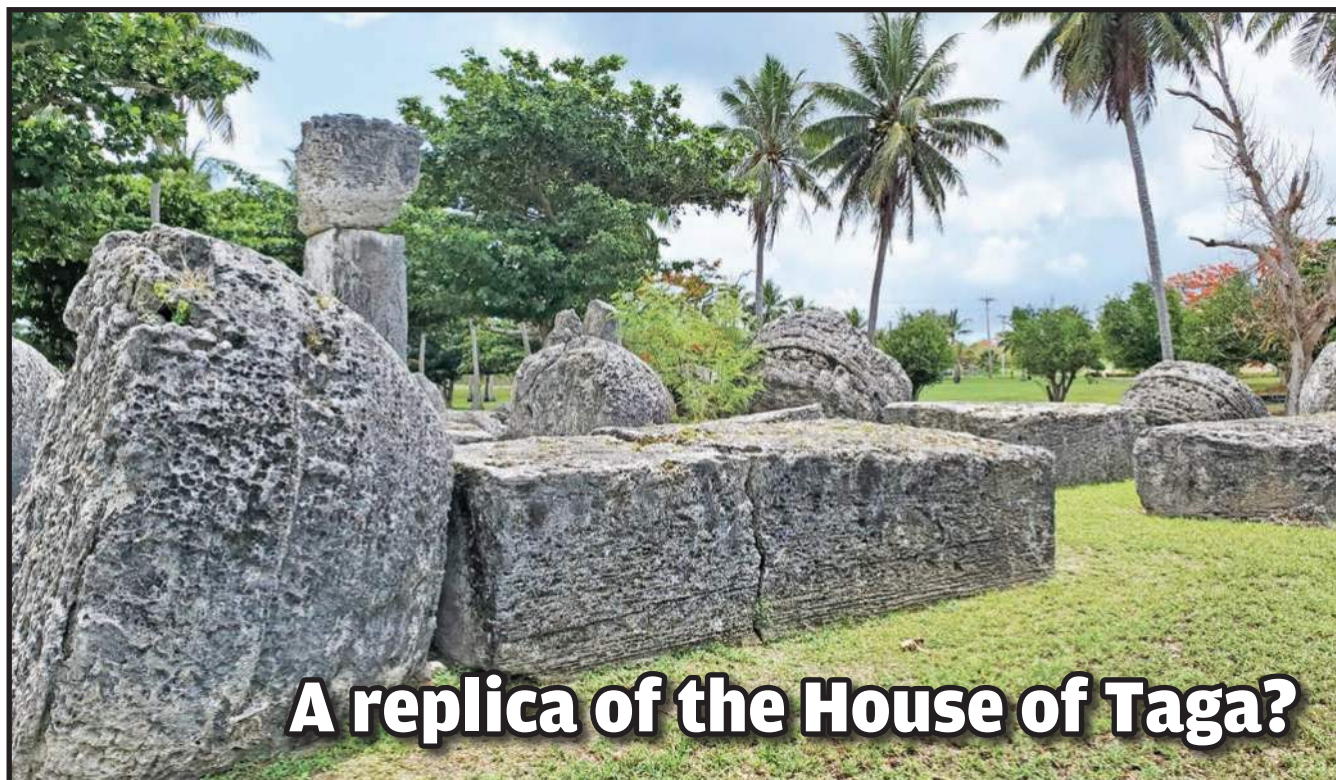
### Palacios signs EITC bill into law

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

In his capacity as acting governor, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios signed into law Monday a bill that would repeal an existing CNMI law in order to make low-and moderate-income working families in the CNMI eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit as a form of financial relief.  
**See PALACIOS on Page 4**



Acting governor Arnold I. Palacios signs into law Monday a bill that would repeal an existing CNMI law in order to make low-and moderate-income working families eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit as a form of financial relief.  
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



### A replica of the House of Taga?

The House of Taga on Tinian. Today, only one of the 12 15-foot-tall latte stone pillars still stands.

By **JOSHUA SANTOS**  
joshua\_santos@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**TINIAN**—An idea is be-

ing floated around to create a replica of what the House of Taga might have looked like as it stood hundreds of

years ago, to be erected near the House of Taga site itself. The replica would serve as a reception area for tourists and

would be flanked by artwork depicting different aspects of life of ancient Chamorros.

**See TAGA on Page 4**

JOSHUA SANTOS

### United seeing fully booked flights to PH

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
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REPORTER

With the Philippines currently restricting incoming flights to its citizens and their immediate relatives, those who are planning to fly to Manila on United Airlines are limited to just business class seats, with tickets starting at \$5,000. Even then, the earliest flight avail-

able is July 14.

The earliest economy seats on United Airlines going to Manila will open on July 20, with tickets starting at \$3,500, according to the airline's website.

This comes as United Airlines announced plans to increase its Saipan-Guam service starting next month. With  
**See UNITED on Page 4**

» **United to offer 5 flights a week by July 7**

### COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

#### LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

### INSIDE



#### NATION

The work of sifting through the remnants of a collapsed condo building stretches into a sixth day.

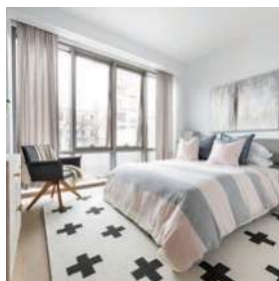
**PAGE 12**



#### ASIA

Rodrigo Duterte said he may consider running for vice president next year when his term ends.

**PAGE 13**



#### GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

Can neutral colors make an impact? Yes. The secret? Monochromatic color schemes.

**PAGE 14**



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## Local

# 2 in FSM awarded graduate scholarships to Sophia University

**TOKYO, Japan**—Two citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia have been awarded full-ride scholarships to pursue Master's Degrees in Global Environmental Studies from Sophia University in Tokyo, Japan.

The competitive scholarships are offered by a partnership comprised of The Mi-

cronesia Conservation Trust; Sophia University; the Association for the Promotion of International Cooperation, a private foundation based in Tokyo; and partners of the Micronesia Challenge.

This is the fourth year that the two graduate school scholarships, which cover all expenses, are offered to citizens

of the FSM, Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau.

The 2021 recipients of the APIC-Sophia University-MCT Scholarships are Natasha M. Gorong of Yap, FSM, and Tara Shaniah Arnold of Chuuk, FSM. Since it was first offered in 2017, seven Micronesia region citizens have



Gorong



Arnold

livihoods across the region. The scholars focus on developing leadership and technical skills and/or majors that enhance their ability to carry out work in conservation, climate adaptation and sustainable development in Micronesia.

Awardees of this prestigious scholarship will receive financial support to earn graduate degrees while receiving close guidance and mentorship from key individuals within the Micronesia Challenge partnership. The mentors/advisers are technical experts who have extensive experience in the field of conservation, climate change adaptation and sustainable development in Micronesia and the broader Pacific. Scholars are paired with host institutions at their permanent residences in FSM, Palau, and the Marshall Islands where they are required to carry out research work to support conservation, climate adaptation, and sustainable development initiatives supported by MCT, and its Micronesia Challenge partners. The program has retained 100% of its graduates within Micronesia. (PR)

been awarded the coveted scholarship. Of that group, four have received an M.A. in Global Environmental Studies and now hold leading positions in their home countries.

Both scholars in May this year received their undergraduate degrees. Gorong, who majored in Environmental Studies and minored in Political Science, received her bachelor's degree from Le Moyne College in May 2021. Arnold received her bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice at Wheeling University, in West Virginia.

APIC, Sophia University,

and MCT partner to select current conservation professionals from Micronesia to pursue graduate level degrees in conservation. Sophia University has committed to providing full tuition scholarships, APIC covers travel, room and board and monthly allowance, and MCT, through the Bill Raynor Micronesia Challenge Scholarship Fund, covers the cost of internships for the scholars.

The Scholarship Fund aims to produce professionals who contribute to the development of effective conservation of Micronesia's biodiversity and the promotion of sustainable

## DPL urged to resolve issues plaguing Rota village, agricultural permittees for years

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Sen. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) has asked the Department of Lands that, prior to any revocation of homestead permits, they should conduct thorough reviews to determine the applicability of public laws pertaining to waiver of homestead requirements.

In her letter to acting DPL secretary Sixto K. Igisomar, Santos said this review could potentially include conducting additional lot inspections and retrieving homesteaders' records of expenditures related to their homestead.

"If found in compliance with all relevant laws, we hope that our homesteaders receive their deeds from DPL at the earliest possible chance," she said.

The senator suggested that the director of the Division of Homestead be sent to Rota to work in collaboration with the Rota DPL District Office director to assess, mitigate, and resolve the issues that have been plaguing both the island's village and agricultural permittees for the last several years.

Santos noted that they have homesteaders that have been given their deeds but their names on the deeds have been

misspelled and have yet to be corrected even after several unsuccessful attempts.

The senator is hoping that such minor oversights can be remedied as soon as possible.

Santos said that back in October 2020, she wrote to Igisomar's predecessor, Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo, concerning numerous calls from concerned residents pertaining to the implementation of public laws amending the waiver of homestead requirements that were enacted during the 17<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> CNMI Legislature, specifically Public Laws 17-04 and 17-37, as amended by P.L. 20-05.

Santos said the amended law states that DPL "shall waive any requirements or policy requiring village homesteader(s) to rebuild a second residential dwelling house upon showing by any homesteader(s) that his/her completed residential dwelling structure was destroyed or severely damaged by typhoon, tsunami or other natural or man-made disasters."

The law also states that DPL "shall waive the requirements or policy of completing a single family residential dwelling structure

upon showing reasonable justification that the homesteader continues to maintain the assigned lot in conformance with the [DPL] requirements, or upon the homesteader providing to the department that the building permit required under 2CMC subsection 7131 is denied because the homestead area lacks water, power, or sewage system infrastructure."

The senator said the CNMI, as a whole, has suffered through unprecedented back-to-back natural disasters followed by the COVID-19 pandemic that has affected everyone globally.

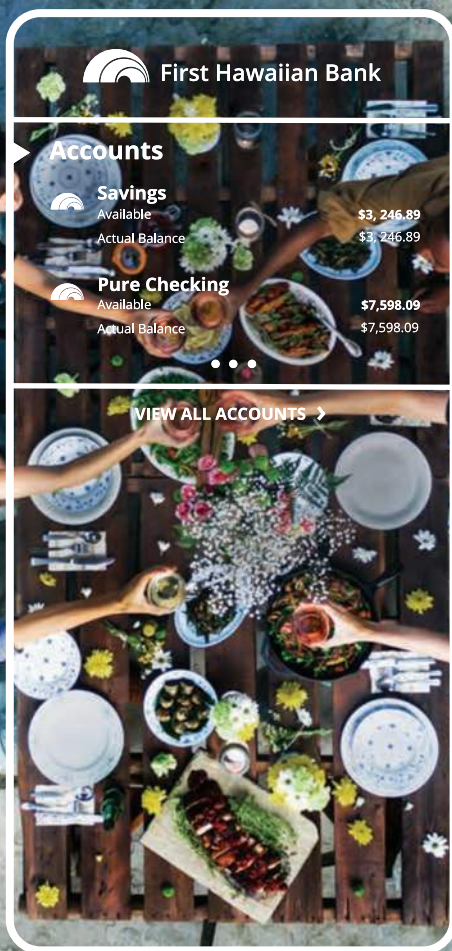
She said the CNMI's economy is still struggling to recover from previous disasters as it continues to rapidly decline in light of the pandemic.

Santos said the Legislature introduced legislation to amend the "Deeds of Conveyance" and "The Waiver of Homestead Requirements" because they empathized and understood the hardship that the people are dealing with.

"Today, more than ever, we need to ensure that these laws are adhered to and uniformly applied to all homesteaders in the CNMI," she added.



Santos



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# 61-year-old accused of molesting minor pleads not guilty



Edmund Altares Castaneda, 61, is escorted by a Department of Corrections officer to a hearing at the Guma Hustisia.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A 61-year-old man accused of molesting a 12-year-old boy for many years pleaded not guilty at the Superior Court last Monday.

Edmund Altares Castaneda, 61, pleaded not guilty before Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto Naraja to the charges of sexual abuse of a minor in the first, second, and third degrees.

Castaneda, who remains in the custody of the Department of Corrections pending the

search for a suitable third-party custodian for him, waived the reading of his rights and was ordered to return to court for a status conference.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho denied Castaneda's request for temporary release last week because his wife was found unsuitable to take up the role as his third-party custodian.

Third-party custodians, Camacho said, serve as the court's eyes and ears while a criminal case is ongoing. Camacho added that the court

will revisit the request for bail modification once a suitable third-party custodian is identified for Castaneda.

Castaneda's lawyer, Office of the Public Defender's Karie Comstock, requested the court to allow Castaneda's wife to post 1% of his initial \$50,000 bail, or \$500.

Court documents state that Castaneda was arrested last June 17 after the victim's father called police upon learning about Castaneda's alleged molestation. The child alleged that Castaneda started molesting him since he was 5 or 6 years old.

In a forensic interview with the Department of Youth Ser-

vices, the victim said he was sleeping when Castaneda allegedly came inside his room and molested him, which he described to the DYS advocate in detail. The child said Castaneda had been doing things like this since he was 5 or 6.

Castaneda told police in an interview that he only "opened" the child's pants as a joke and he's always joking with him.

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## Student fishing derby for TTT's Tinian, Rota members this July

By **JOSHUA SANTOS**  
joshua\_santos@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Tasi to Table Inc. will be hosting a fishing derby for the organization's student members on Tinian and Rota this July but further details and a tentative date are still in the works.

According to the organization's president, Gene Weaver, July's student fishing derby will be a shallow-bottom fishing event—a fishing technique where a weighted hook or lure is lowered to the bottom of a water column.

Having only launched the TTT chapters and four-month pilot programs on Tinian and Rota this year, Weaver said the fishing derby will serve as the pilot programs' closer, leading into the launch of eight-month

programs on both islands at the start of the next school year.

The last student derby that TTT held was its Youth Experiential Derby at the Smiling Cove Marina on June 12, where a Marianas High School student and a Rota High School student joined the veteran crew of Hagu Reel to win the event by capturing a 100-lb marlin.

Since there are many events on both Tinian and Rota that are scheduled for July, additional details about the fishing derby are still being worked on, Weaver said. "The date hasn't been set yet because there's a lot of activities going on in July, and so we will be going to Rota and Tinian in July for these students to experience shallow-bottom fishing," he said.

## Pride Marianas bash at ARC poolside was festive success

Kiki 2021, a party organized by the LGBTQIA+ advocacy group Pride Marianas last June 19 at the Aqua Resort Club's poolside, drew well over 100 attendees, including representatives from the government and sponsoring partners.

The evening featured a silent auction, raffle, stage performance by island showman Neil Fama and music by DJ Rico. Premier entertainment and production group Palm Trio hosted the celebration.

The party was billed as a Pride Month celebration providing the community a safe

space for self-expression, music and dance.

Kiki 2021 also helped raise funds for Pride Marianas and had the following sponsors: Pride Marianas Youth, Palm Trio, T-Project, Top Shelf Wine & Spirits, Rep. Sheila Babauta, Marpac, Joeten Enterprises, Turnkey Solutions, Pacifica Insurance, The Shack, Roil Soil, Athlete's Foot, Naked Fish, Tyler's Gelatte Stone, Ina's Kitchen, SPN.dylus670, Taboo, Pena House Boutique, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, and Tribe Marianas. (PR)



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 <p><b>2020 TOYOTA COROLLA LE</b> STOCK #: SP21P0049 Engine: Regular Unleaded I-4 1.8 L/110 Trans: 1-Speed CVT w/OD Drivetrain: FWD Mileage: 2,462 <b>NOW \$20,999*</b></p>	 <p><b>2021 TOYOTA COROLLA LE</b> STOCK #: SP21F0078 Engine: Regular Unleaded I-4 1.8 L/110 Trans: 1-Speed CVT w/OD Drivetrain: FWD Color: Black Sand Pearl, Mileage: 973 <b>NOW \$21,999*</b></p>	 <p><b>2020 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER L</b> STOCK #: SP21R0097 Engine: Regular Unleaded V-6 3.5 L/211 Trans: 8-Speed Automatic w/OD Drivetrain: FWD Mileage: 7,342 <b>NOW \$34,999*</b></p>	 <p><b>2019 TOYOTA TACOMA 4WD</b> STOCK #: SP21R0096 Engine: Regular Unleaded V-6 3.5 L/211 Trans: 6-Speed Automatic w/OD Drivetrain: 4WD Mileage: 11,249 <b>NOW \$38,999*</b></p>

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# Jury trial begins for woman in alleged CW-1 scheme

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The jury trial for one of four persons indicted for allegedly defrauding U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services over applications for CW-1 non-immigrant visas began yesterday at the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

The jury trial for Servillana Soriano, who is charged with one count of conspiracy to defraud the United States for her alleged involvement in a CW-1 petition scheme back in 2019, kicked off and concluded with the selection of a jury.

The 13 jurors will return to court today to hear opening arguments.

Soriano's co-conspirators—Aminul Islam, Halim Khan, and Faroque Hose—were also charged with one count of conspiracy to defraud the U.S. To date, Islam and Hosen have both pleaded guilty.

Back on Feb. 16, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona sentenced Islam to one-week imprisonment, one year of supervised release, and 25 hours of community service. He was also ordered to pay a \$100 assessment fee.

Hosen's sentencing has been sched-

uled for July 23, 2021, at 1:30pm.

As for Halim Khan, his jury trial will start on Aug. 29, 2021.

According to indictment, Soriano and her co-conspirators agreed to defraud the United States by deceitful and dishonest means for the purpose of impeding, impairing, obstructing, and defeating the lawful government functions of a government agency, USCIS, in the fair and objective evaluation of CW-1 non-immigrant visa applications.

The indictment stated that RES International LLC would submit a petition for CW-1 classification in ex-

change for money that would falsely and fraudulently represent that an employer-employee relationship exists between RES and the beneficia-

ries under the employment terms.

The primary purpose of the application was allegedly to obtain legal status for those beneficiaries.

## PALACIOS

From Page 1

Income Tax Credit as a form of financial relief.

"This legislation is evidence that when we all work together, good things can happen," said Palacios in signing House Bill 22-19, House Draft 1, into Public Law 22-03.

EITC is a refundable tax credit in the U.S. Internal Revenue Service Code that helps qualified low-to moderate-income working families and taxpayers get a tax break by allowing them to use the credit to reduce the taxes they owe, and in some cases, increase their tax refunds.

Describing it as a monumental bill, Palacios thanked the legislation's author, Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan), for her hard work in overseeing its passage.

He also commended Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) for ensuring that the Commonwealth and other U.S. territories are able to avail of full and permanent federal funding through the American Rescue Plan Act.

Palacios said that during the 902 Consultations with the Obama administration in 2017, Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres and members of his administration conveyed how significant implementing the EITC would be to the people of the Commonwealth.

Palacios also extended appreciation to Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) and Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig for the roles they played in the critical amendment of this bill. He said the amendment allows for the CNMI government to provide much needed assistance to working families while maintaining its ability to responsibly assess its financial capacities moving forward.

Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-

Saipan) said Monday that, with the signing of the bill into law, qualified low- and moderate-income taxpayers will be able to claim the EITC when they file their taxes next year.

Rep. Christina E. Sablan said the estimated annual value of the EITC is \$25 million.

She thanked Palacios for signing the bill into law, and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, his Democrat colleagues in the U.S. Congress, and President Joe Biden for fully and permanently covering the EITC in the Marianas and all the territories with federal funds through the American Rescue Plan Act.

Rep. Christina E. Sablan said the work is not done yet, however, as the new law includes a provision inserted at the insistence of the administration and the Republican lawmakers in the House that essentially allows for the EITC to only be paid out as long as federal funds will cover it.

"The provision is problematic because it still presents a conflict with the CNMI's obligations under the Covenant to adopt and implement a mirror tax code," she pointed out.

Rep. Christina E. Sablan said they have learned from the congressional office that had they done a full repeal of the 100% local tax on the EITC as originally proposed in H.B. 22-19, they would have been able to pay out the EITC in this calendar year using ARPA funds set aside for state and local government operations.

"So, unfortunately, we missed an important opportunity," she said.

It was Demapan who introduced a floor amendment to include a subsection to ensure that only the EITC law is being considered and does not include other excess credits outside of the EITC.

Members of the House unanimously voted to pass the bill last March. The Senate also unanimously passed the legislation last May.

## TAGA

From Page 1

At least that's the imagination of Tinian Mayor Edwin P. Aldan, who says that project would be so massive that he predicts it will go past his time as mayor.

With \$200,000 grant recently given to the Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan by the CNMI Office of Grants Management, Aldan hopes that that money would be used to begin beautifying Tinian's current and future tourist attractions, beginning with improvements to the

House of Taga.

In an interview with Aldan last Saturday, he said, "What I wanted to do for House of Taga is to bat out for a project that is a major undertaking. It could cost in the millions of dollars, but slowly [the \$200,000] could be used to start the design concept of what we want to do. ...It will probably not [be completed] within my administration," said Aldan.

Aldan envisions a project that would include actual digging up of limestone—the same material that the latte stones that stand at House of Taga are made of—culminating into a House of Taga replica.

"[The art] would showcase how we made our spears, how we made farming gear...how we made our food, our medicine. Other artwork would show how we lived in these huts," said Aldan.

Aldan said that he wants Tinian to be at the forefront of efforts like these, as it is Tinian that has the largest standing latte stone pillars in the CNMI. Additionally, Aldan wants a project of this nature and scope to begin before leadership on Saipan, Rota, and even Guam catch on to his ideas. "It's got to be here. It has to start from here because this is where the biggest standing latte stones are," said Aldan.

## UNITED

From Page 1

travel restrictions slowly easing up after over a year of isolation and the CNMI soon to welcome visitors, United's Saipan-Guam service will increase starting July 7 from four flights a week to five flights a week, implementing a Wednesday flight, according to United Airlines Corporate Communications.

"The June schedule is four-times-weekly; Mondays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Beginning on Wednesday, July 7, we will increase the number of flights, bringing the schedule to five times weekly," the statement said.

United Airlines' Guam-Manila ser-

vice remains restricted to Philippine nationals and immediate relatives of Philippine nationals. Currently, the Philippines is taking measure to ensure a new, more contagious, variant of the COVID-19 virus does not cross its borders, prompting the country to limit its arrival quota to just 2,000 arrivals per day.

The new variant is called the Delta Plus variant.

According to a Philippine-based media outlet, the country has implemented a strict 10-day quarantine rule for returning Filipinos from abroad to prevent the entry of the Delta Plus variant.

The restriction stems from the concern of government officials regarding the continued spread of the Delta Plus variant, which now has at least

200 recorded cases in 11 countries.

Fortunately, the country has yet to record a single case of the Delta Plus variant.

Aside from visitors, the Philippines is currently restricting entry of passengers who have been in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, or the United Arab Emirates in the last 14-days. The restriction does not apply to Philippine nationals on repatriation flights.

The Delta Plus variant, also known as the B.1.617.2.1 or AY.1 variant, is a mutation of the Delta variant that resulted in the lethal surge of cases in India back in May.

The variant is believed to be four times more contagious than the original virus detected in Wuhan, China back in 2019.

## ANOTHER

From Page 1

Guerrero's salary in the DPS budget for fiscal year 2022. She also recommended asking Guerrero for a medical slip from a doctor about his leave.

Guerrero's last appearance before the House Ways and Means Committee last year for the budget hearing involved a tense exchange between him and Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan), following the lawmaker's back-to-back questions on nepotism, furloughs, and civil service rules at DPS.

The CNMI government has until Sept. 30, 2021, to enact a budget for the next fiscal year. Without a budget, the CNMI government will be forced to shut down.

Manglona said Guerrero told him last Friday about his initial doctor's visit, that he has to do several visits, and that will be submitting an additional two-week leave. The lawmaker

said he wants to bring that information to the members of his committee to see how they want to proceed with the budget hearing for DPS.

Manglona said that, according to Babauta, when her Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee issued a subpoena to Guerrero in connection with the JGO's probe into Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' expenditures, the commissioner was at his office Monday.

With that information about Guerrero's presence at his office, Manglona said, the Ways and Means Committee wanted to find out if the commissioner had indeed taken his leave. Manglona said he will message Guerrero to get a copy of any leave request or any delegation of authority.

"If there is none, I will bring it up to the committee to see if they want to issue a subpoena for him or, as what other members have suggested, to zero out his salary in the budget," he said.

Manglona said he wants to bring it up to the committee members to see how they want to proceed. "We'll find out more tomorrow during our next budget hearing," he said.

After the Ways and Means Committee completed yesterday afternoon its hearing for the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' budget, Babauta said the next step for the committee in the case of DPS is to ask for a medical slip from a doctor about Guerrero's leave.

Babauta said she also highly recommends that they put a \$1 fund on Guerrero's position—a recommendation that Sablan described as "not unreasonable."

Sablan said Guerrero is not helping his department, that he has been thus far unavailable to participate in the budget hearing and answer the questions that they have for the department, for the needs of the department in this upcoming fiscal year, and performance of his department.

Sablan noted that the JGO Com-

mittee chaired by Babauta issued a subpoena to Guerrero and that he was at his office, and that he was also able to answer questions by the media. Yet, Sablan said, the commissioner can't appear for a budget hearing.

Sablan also told *Saipan Tribune* that she supports Babauta's request to get a doctor's note that explains why the commissioner is medically unavailable to attend a budget hearing for his department, even as he is apparently still showing up to work, signing papers, issuing statements, responding to media requests, and other things.

"In dodging the budget process and avoiding the committee's questions, the commissioner is not helping his department at all, or the people who work there," Sablan said.

The lawmaker said they should perhaps zero out Guerrero's salary in the budget and they could also consider including administrative provisions in the budget act to increase

accountability at DPS, and move forward with legislative oversight hearings too.

Manglona announced at the hearing yesterday that they might schedule another meeting to discuss how to proceed with the DPS budget hearing.

At the June 8 DPS budget hearing, Guerrero did not show up as he was on Tinian, apparently for an emergency that he needed to attend. Some DPS officials were present at the hearing. Manglona then decided to continue the DPS budget hearing to June 11. That hearing did not push through either, after Guerrero called Manglona a day before, June 10, to inform him that he is on medical leave for possibly two weeks and asked to reschedule the budget hearing.

Manglona earlier stated that he would confirm if Guerrero is back in a week and a half and then they will schedule the budget hearing when the commissioner is available.



## Court orders Rota mayor to pay back \$5K legal fees

After reviewing the financial affidavits filed by Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig, the U.S. District Court for the NMI has ordered him to reimburse the court for the funds used to pay for his legal fees.

District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather Kennedy ordered Atalig to partially reimburse the federal

court for the Criminal Justice Act funds that was used to pay for his legal fees in the amount of \$5,000.

Kennedy stated in her order that the reimbursement may be paid over the course of seven months. Kennedy gave Atalig up to Jan. 31, 2022, to pay the full amount of \$5,000.

In her order, Kennedy said

that based on the financial affidavit reflecting his net bi-weekly income as mayor of Rota, Atalig receives a gross salary of \$70,000 per year.

The U.S. government informed the court that it is unaware of any significant changes to Atalig's financial status since the inception of the case.

After reviewing the record and evidence presented, coupled with the information in the mayor's financial affidavit, Kennedy found him financially able to at least partially pay for his legal representation.

"With a total monthly net income of \$4,024.51

and monthly expenses of \$2,963.46, Atalig has a discretionary amount of \$1,061.06 per month. The court finds that, while Atalig does not have sufficient assets to pay the entire amount of his legal fees and costs, his monthly discretionary income during his mayoral term is sufficient to pay the partial amount of \$5,000. This amount may be paid as one

payment or in equal installments over the course of seven months," Kennedy said.

Back in November 2018, Atalig and his girlfriend, Evelyn Atalig, were charged with conspiracy, wire fraud, and false statement. The jury later found the Ataligs not guilty on all counts following a seven-day jury trial.

(*Kimberly B. Esmores*)

## OIA applauds USVI graduates of Executive Leadership Program

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs applauds and congratulates seven new graduates from the U.S. Virgin Islands who successfully completed the Executive Leadership Program. A virtual commencement honoring these current and future leaders in public service was held on Friday June 11, 2021.

"Congratulations on your completion of the Executive Leadership Program. You have now acquired new perspectives and the potential to help strengthen your government's institutions," said acting assistant secretary Nikolao Pula. "We look forward to working with each of you in advancing the success of the USVI's public sector to better serve the people of the Virgin Islands."

Seven USVI participants joined 60 aspiring leaders from throughout the U.S. federal government to comprise

the graduating cohort of 2020-2021. Meetings occurred virtually over the course of the past year engaging students in classroom instruction, individual and team assignments, executive interviews, as well as shadowing and developmental assignments to strengthen leadership skills.

Since 2009, OIA has supported the participation of Virgin Islands middle-management leaders for a total of 26 who have completed the program. The USVI ELP was established to address challenges in attracting and retaining qualified individuals to work in core leadership functions. Participation is funded through the Office of Insular Affairs' Technical Assistance Program and administered by the Graduate School USA's Center for Leadership and Management.

The 2020-2021 USVI Ex-

ecutive Leadership cohort members are:

**Erika Benjamin Callwood** - USVI Territorial Emergency Management Agency

**Tamar Corry** - USVI Department of Finance

**Esther Felix Donnelly** - USVI Department of Property and Procurement.

**Deviqia Parris** - USVI Department of Property & Procurement

**Kizma L. Petersen** - USVI Department of Property and Procurement

**Joy Wheatley** - USVI Public Finance Authority

**Wendy Wheeler** - USVI Economic Development Authority

Additional information on the Executive Leadership Program and the Pacific & Virgin Islands Training Initiatives can be found online at <https://pitiviti.org/about-the-eldp>. (PR)

## Judy's Cafe & Restaurant is latest NMC ProaPerks member

Judy's Cafe & Restaurant is the latest company to sign on as a Northern Marianas College ProaPerks Partner, joining many other businesses and organizations that provide exclusive discounts and benefits for Northern Marianas College students, employees, and alumni.

All card-carrying members of the NMC ProaPerks program can now receive a 20% off on food and drink purchase at Judy's Cafe.

Judy's Cafe & Restaurant joins the growing list of ProaPerks partners, such as 153 Restaurant, 360 Restaurant, 4EVER CNMI, Alamo Car Rental, AllStar Sporting Goods, Aqua Connections, Inc., Athlete's Foot, Avis Rent A Car, BAB Korean Restaurant Cup Bab, Boarderline, Bolis R US 2, Bubba Gump, Candle J, Caravan of Food, Casa Urashima, Chelu Alynez Enterprise, Chungi Wa Korean Restaurant, Coral Garden Hotel, D'

Chef's Kitchen, Docomo Pacific, Dollar Days, Enterprise Car Rental, Ete Cafe, Fishing Tackle and Sporting Goods, Fork and Spoon, Garapan Restaurant Cafe & Grill, Gold's Gym, Grandvrio Resort Saipan, Great Harvest, Boyer Trading Company LLC, dba Ginen Saipan, Ha'ani Company, Healing Stones Spa, Highway Express Auto Care Center, Herman's Modern Bakery, Inc./Tan Marikita's Cafe, Hertz Rental Car, Hyatt, Ice Island Coffee & Ice Deserts, Ina's Kitchen, Isla Shave Ice, International Roller Skates, JC Cafe, Judy's Cafe & Restaurant, Junlyn Salon, Kentucky Fried Chicken/Taco Bell, Kevin's Cafe, Kiki's, Latte Build Gym, Lohas Massage, Lucky Store, Lucky II Mart, Magbers Snack Bar, Mama D's Cafe, Marianas Creation, MMC & Pacific Labs, LLC, Megabyte, Mermaid Restaurant & Milk tea, Micafe Snack Corner, Nam Dae Moon, National

Car Rental, Natural Nail & Spa, Neni Girl Nails, NMC Bookstore, Ocean Candy, Ocean Star Restaurant, Pacific Home Appliances, Pena House Boutique, Pizzeria Bar & Grill, Saipan Computer Services, Shirley's Cafe, Salty's, Summer Snow Cafe & Kids Corner cafe, Surf Club, The Ohala Foundation Clothing, The Pacific Supply, The Shack, Tinian Diamond Hotel, Tribe Marianas, and Triple J Motors.

NMC is in the introductory phase of rolling out the ProaPerks to alumni, students, and employees. For more information, visit [marianas.edu/proaperks](http://marianas.edu/proaperks).

Companies and other interested organizations who would like to become part of the ProaPerks program and take advantage of the buying power of thousands of individuals that include Northern Marianas College alumni, students, and employees, can find more information by emailing [proaperks@marianas.edu](mailto:proaperks@marianas.edu). (NMC)

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
**Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality**  
 P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950-1304  
 Tel.: (670) 664-8500/01; Fax: (670) 664-8540  
[www.deq.gov.mp](http://www.deq.gov.mp)



Jonathan I. Arriola  
 Director, DEQ

## NOTICE OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE LANDFILL PERMIT DETERMINATION SWMF-S-LF-01-2020

**PERMIT DETERMINATION:** On June 25, 2021, the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) issued Municipal Solid Waste Landfill (MSWLF) Permit No. SWMF-S-LF-01-2020 to DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (DPW). The permit is effective on the date of issuance and expires on June 26, 2026. The permit authorizes the DPW's continued operation of the existing Marpi Solid Waste Landfill, an existing 26-acre MSWLF on a 42-acre site located in the Marpi Depression on the island of Saipan.

**PUBLIC NOTICE, PUBLIC HEARING, AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:** Notice of the permit application, public hearing, and public comment period was published in the Marianas Variety and Saipan Tribune on April 19, 2021. DEQ conducted a public hearing pursuant to 2 CMC §3122(d) on May 10, 2021 at 2:00 pm at the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality 2nd Floor Conference Room in Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan, regarding DEQ's intention to issue the requested permit. The deadline for submission of written comments was June 3, 2021. No public comments were received at the public hearing or during the public comment period.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:** Interested persons may obtain further information and inspect a copy of the permit and supporting documents by visiting DEQ at Chalan Pale Arnold – Middle Road or by contacting Greg Reyes, Program Manager of the Solid Waste Management Program, at 664-8500/8546 or [greg.reyes@becq.mp.gov](mailto:greg.reyes@becq.mp.gov).



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
**Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality**  
 Division of Coastal Resources Management  
 P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950  
 Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315  
[www.dcrm.gov.mp](http://www.dcrm.gov.mp)



Janice E. Castro  
 Director, DCRM

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

### ROUTE 302 (NAFTAN RD.) AND ROUTE 304 (FLAME TREE RD.) IMPROVEMENT PROJECT COASTAL PERMIT NO. SMS-2021-033

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the proposed road improvements of Route 302 and Route 304 on the southeastern coast of Saipan.

The Department of Public Works is proposing to reconstruct the existing roadway of Route 302 (Naftan Road) and Route 304 (Flame Tree Road) by revitalizing the highway for motorists and tourists traveling to popular beaches and hiking locations including safer traffic routes for nearby residents.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled to take place on **Thursday, July 15, 2021, at 5:00 PM**, at the **BECQ 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Main Conference Room** on Middle Road in Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan. Due to the ongoing threat of COVID-19 and to ensure the health and safety of all, virtual public participation is highly encouraged via video conferencing through Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/97781240647> or join via telephone by calling the DCRM Office at (670) 664-8300 for connection assistance. Zoom Meeting access code may change. Please call DCRM for an update.

Written comments can be submitted by mail to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, sent by fax to 664-8315, or emailed to [permitting@dcrm.gov.mp](mailto:permitting@dcrm.gov.mp). The project files are open for the public and can be reviewed by scheduling an appointment with DCRM. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1, if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Route 302 and Route 304 Improvement Project.

/s/ JANICE E. CASTRO  
 Director  
 Division of Coastal Resources Management

## ‘Simplified Arrival’ now also in Guam

U.S. Customs and Border Protection, in partnership with the Guam International Airport Authority, announced Monday the implementation of the Simplified Arrival process at the Antonio B. Won Pat International Airport.

Simplified Arrival is an enhanced international arrival process that uses facial biometrics to automate the manual document checks that are already required for admission into the United States. This process provides travelers with a touchless process that further secures and streamlines international arrivals while fulfilling a longstanding congressional mandate to biometrically record the entry and exit of non-U.S. citizens.

Simplified Arrival only uses the biometric facial comparison process at a time and place where travelers are already required by law to verify their identity by presenting a travel document. When travelers arrive at the Guam International Airport on an international flight, they will pause for a photo at the primary inspection point. CBP's biometric facial comparison process will compare the new photo of the traveler to a small gallery of high-quality images

that the traveler has already provided to the government, such as passport and visa photos. In addition, foreign travelers who have traveled to the U.S. previously may no longer need to provide fingerprints as their identity will be confirmed through the touchless facial comparison process.

Simplified Arrival pairs one of the industry's highest ranked facial comparison algorithms (as assessed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology) with trained CBP officers who are skilled at verifying the authenticity of travel documents. If a traveler cannot be matched to a photo on record using the Simplified Arrival process, the traveler will proceed through the traditional inspection process consistent with existing requirements for entry into the United States.

U.S. citizens or those foreign travelers who are not required to provide biometrics who wish to opt out of the new biometric process may notify a CBP officer as they approach the primary inspection point. These travelers will be required to present a valid travel document for inspection by a CBP officer

and they will be processed consistent with existing requirements for admission into the United States.

CBP is committed to its privacy obligations and has taken steps to safeguard the privacy of all travelers. CBP has employed strong technical security safeguards and has limited the amount of personally identifiable information used in the facial biometric process. New photos of U.S. citizens will be deleted within 12 hours. Photos of most foreign nationals will be stored in a secure Department of Homeland Security system.

Currently, CBP has also implemented biometric facial comparison technology partially or fully at entry into the United States at 172 airports, including Preclearance locations, and at exit from the United States at 32 airports. To date, more than 77 million travelers have participated in the biometric facial comparison process at air, land, and seaports of entry. Since September 2018, CBP has leveraged facial biometrics to prevent more than 700 imposters from illegally entering the United States by using genuine travel documents that were issued to other people. **(PR)**



## Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting

Wednesday, July 07, 2021 | 5:00 PM  
 Charley's, Pacific Islands Club  
 Tel: 234-9661/2 • Fax: 234-9666  
[www.cnmzoning.com](http://www.cnmzoning.com)



## AGENDA

- A. Preliminary Matters**
  1. Call to Order
  2. Roll Call
  3. Adoption of Agenda
  4. Adoption of 06/16/2021 Zoning Board Meeting minutes and 06/23/2021 Special Zoning Board Meeting minutes.
  5. Public Comments (*not for items to be discussed in item B. Public Hearings*)
- B. Public Hearings**
  1. **Conditional Use Application #2020-6972** – Trinity Logistics, LLC is proposing to operate a used Motor Oil containment site that will be collected and shipped off-island for recycling purposes. Applicant will have a DOT Certified Transport Vacuum Truck that will be picking up the Used Oil and then transferred into a BLT FlexiBag that will be set up in a 9' X 20' Cargo Container. This use is classified as "Manufacturing & Processing" and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 012 D 113 in the village of Gualo Rai. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.
  2. **Conditional Use Application #2020-7539** – CannaBlyss, Inc is proposing to occupy and renovate two (2) existing single-storey concrete structure for its Cannabis Farm Use. Building A measures 67'.6" (L) x 34'.5" (W) x 12'.3" (H) and Building B measures 40'.8" (L) x 56' (W) x 10'.2" (H). This use is classified as "Cannabis Farm" and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 1856 New-6-1 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.
  3. **Conditional Use Application #2020-6462** – Top Hatz Saipan, LLC is proposing to occupy and renovate a unit on the 2nd floor of an existing 2-storey building structure measuring 76'.3" (L) x 45'.10" (W) x 16' (H) for its "Adult Business" Use. This use is permitted in the district as a conditional use and the site is located on Lot No. 002 D 07 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Garapan Core.
  4. **Conditional Use Application #2020-7211** – Ocean Spa is proposing to occupy and renovate a unit in the 1st floor of an existing 2-storey building with a floor area measuring 17'.3" (L) x 26'.6" (W) x 9' (H) for its Personal Service-Spa Use. This use is classified as "Personal Service" and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 157-5 in the village of As Terlaje. This area is zoned as Village Residential.
- C. Old Business**
  1. Zoning Office Building Renovations
  2. Garapan Revitalization Project
- D. New Business**
  1. Nuisance Abatement and Blighted Properties Act
    - i. Regulations
  2. Administrator's Contract Renewal
- E. Executive Session**
- F. Miscellaneous**
  1. Administrator's Updates
  2. Permit & Enforcement Report
- G. Adjournment**

In an effort to provide public access to this meeting during this pandemic, the Commonwealth Zoning Board will host this meeting via:

### Zoom Video Communications

Meeting Link: <https://zoom.us/j/6853007492>  
 Meeting Code: 685 300 7492



## DOI awards \$3.87M in grants to American Samoa for FY 2021

The U.S. Department of the Interior has announced \$3,866,108 in grant funding to the American Samoa government from the U.S. Department of the Interior’s Office of Insular Affairs’ Technical Assistance Program, Maintenance Assistance Program, and CARES Act funding for fiscal year 2021.

The Technical Assistance Program grants totaling \$2,451,108 for fiscal year 2021 will be provided to various departments and offices within the American Samoa government as follows:

- **\$269,000-Office of Disaster Assistance and Petroleum Management** to update the ASG catalog of infrastructure assets throughout the territory to include semi-autonomous agencies.
- **\$256,000-American Samoa Visitor’s Bureau** to develop business opportunities focused on rekindling interest in locally made handicrafts and entertainment activities for residents and future visitors.
- **\$255,811-American Samoa Development Bank** to develop virtual banking.
- **\$225,000-Office of the Governor** to improve information systems management and improve cybersecurity.
- **\$250,000-Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources** for a feasibility study to explore development and design of a multipurpose and integrated marina that supports fisheries, and other business activities that could help diversity the economy.
- **\$243,000-Office of the Secretary of American Samoa**, the repository for all laws, regulations, and executive orders will be modernizing and standardizing its record keeping capabilities to serve as a model for use throughout the ASG.
- **\$210,000-Department of Treasury** for the digital archival of Treasury documents.
- **\$175,000-Department of Treasury** for a feasibility study on tax system replacement and design to improve tax processing in the territory.
- **\$150,000-Political Status Office** to conduct a constitutional convention in the territory and engage the community in public awareness

forums, dialogue and discussions on accountability related the U.S. Constitution and U.S. Common Law.

- **\$150,000-Lyndon B. Johnson Tropical Medical Center** to establish a maternal telehealth medicine partnership with the University of Hawai’i’s John A. Burns School of Medicine for the improvement of maternal and fetal health care.
- **\$98,844-Department of Public Safety** for fire equipment and gear.
- **\$85,290-American Samoa Visitor’s Bureau** to restore the Fagatogo/Upper Faga’alu Reservoir Heritage hiking trail.
- **\$83,163-Pacific Resources for Education and Learning**, a nonprofit regional education organization, will conduct an assessment in collaboration with the Department of Education and the Feliti Barstow Library to expand services to develop school libraries into community learning centers.

The Maintenance Assistance Program grants totaling \$865,000 are provided to various departments and offices within the American Samoa government for fiscal year 2021 as follows:

- **\$280,000-Department of Public Works** to replace aging gas pumps and rehabilitate the public works and school bus gas stations.
- **\$200,000- Shipyard Authority** to repair and upgrade buildings that house the welding and mechanic shops and provide necessary tools.
- **\$175,000-Department of Commerce** for office expansion and upgrade promoting a more efficient and healthy work environment that follows COVID-19 guidelines.
- **\$150,000-Lyndon B. Johnson Tropical Medical Center** for training in the management of medical equipment, the property, and medical facilities.
- **\$60,000-Lyndon B. Johnson Tropical Medical Center** to upgrade the Safety Office program at the hospital and provide safety training as required by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

OIA will also be awarding CARES Act funding to LBJ Tropical Medical Center (\$550,000) for the Emergency Medical Services Maintenance & Responder Training project in an effort to meet recommendations and guidelines outlined by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. *(PR)*



**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**  
**MVA-RFP-21-2031**  
For: Marianas Visitors Authority Desk Audit

Submission /Closing Date:  
Time:

July 12, 2021  
11:00AM (ChST)

Submit sealed proposals to:

Marianas Visitors Authority  
Attn: Procurement Office  
San Jose Professional Building  
Beach Rd., San Jose  
P.O. Box 500861  
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the Scope of Work on or after **June 04, 2021** at the **Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan**, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

/s/ Ellsbeth Viola Alepuyo  
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

/s/ Priscilla M. Iakopo  
Managing Director, MVA

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
for  
**CannaBlyss, Inc.**

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. CannaBlyss, Inc is proposing to occupy and renovate two (2) existing single-storey concrete structure for its Cannabis Farm Use. Building A measures 67'.6" (L) x 34'.5" (W) x 12'.3" (H) and Building B measures 40'.8" (L) x 56' (W) x 10'.2" (H). This use is classified as "Cannabis Farm" and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 1856 New-6-1 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date:

July 07, 2021

Time:

5:00 pm

Place:

Charley's, Pacific Islands Club

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, July 6, 2021. Please send written comments via e-mail to [zoningboard@cnmizoning.com](mailto:zoningboard@cnmizoning.com). via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
for  
**Ocean Spa**

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Ocean Spa is proposing to occupy and renovate a unit in the 1st floor of an existing 2-storey building with a floor area measuring 17'.3" (L) x 26'.6" (W) x 9' (H) for its Personal Service-Spa Use. This use is classified as "Personal Service" and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 157-5 in the village of As Terlaje. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date:

July 07, 2021

Time:

5:00 pm

Place:

Charley's, Pacific Islands Club

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, July 6, 2021. Please send written comments via e-mail to [zoningboard@cnmizoning.com](mailto:zoningboard@cnmizoning.com). via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman



**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**  
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**



**INVITATION TO BID**  
**ITB NO.: DPW21-ITB-026**  
**SUBMISSION DATE: July 14, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

**“Renovation of Government House No. 1344 Capitol Hill, Saipan”**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division required for each set.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **July 02, 2021**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the **Project Site Government House No. 1344**, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **July 07, 2021** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ JAMES A. ADA  
SECRETARY, DPW

/s/ JOSEPH P. DELEON GUERRERO  
Secretary of DCCA

/s/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON  
ACTING DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
for  
**Top Hatz Saipan, LLC**

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Top Hatz Saipan, LLC is proposing to occupy and renovate a unit on the 2nd floor of an existing 2-storey building structure measuring 76'.3" (L) x 45'.10" (W) x 16' (H) for its "Adult Business" Use. This use is permitted in the district as a conditional use and the site is located on Lot No. 002 D 07 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Garapan Core.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date:

July 07, 2021

Time:

5:00 pm

Place:

Charley's, Pacific Islands Club

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, July 6, 2021. Please send written comments via e-mail to [zoningboard@cnmizoning.com](mailto:zoningboard@cnmizoning.com). via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
for  
**Trinity Logistics, LLC**

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Trinity Logistics, LLC is proposing to operated a used Motor Oil containment site that will be collected and shipped off-island for recycling purposes. Applicant will have a DOT Certified Transport Vacuum Truck that will be picking up the Used Oil and then transferred into a BLT FlexiBag that will be set up in a 9' x 20' Cargo Container. This use is classified as "Manufacturing & Processing" and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 012 D 113 in the village of Gualo Rai. This area is zoned as Rural.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date:

July 07, 2021

Time:

5:00 pm

Place:

Charley's, Pacific Islands Club

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, July 6, 2021. Please send written comments via e-mail to [zoningboard@cnmizoning.com](mailto:zoningboard@cnmizoning.com). via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman



# Opinion

Hafa Adair

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXI, Issue No. 128

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,  
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
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### EDITORIAL

## Music therapy for COVID burnout

**W**orkers in a range of professions are experiencing what has come to be known as COVID burnout, characterized by a lack of motivation, fatigue, depression or isolation. After an intensive year of war against a deadly virus that has killed some 600,000 people in the U.S., health care workers are suffering battle fatigue.

Perhaps it's time for a little music.

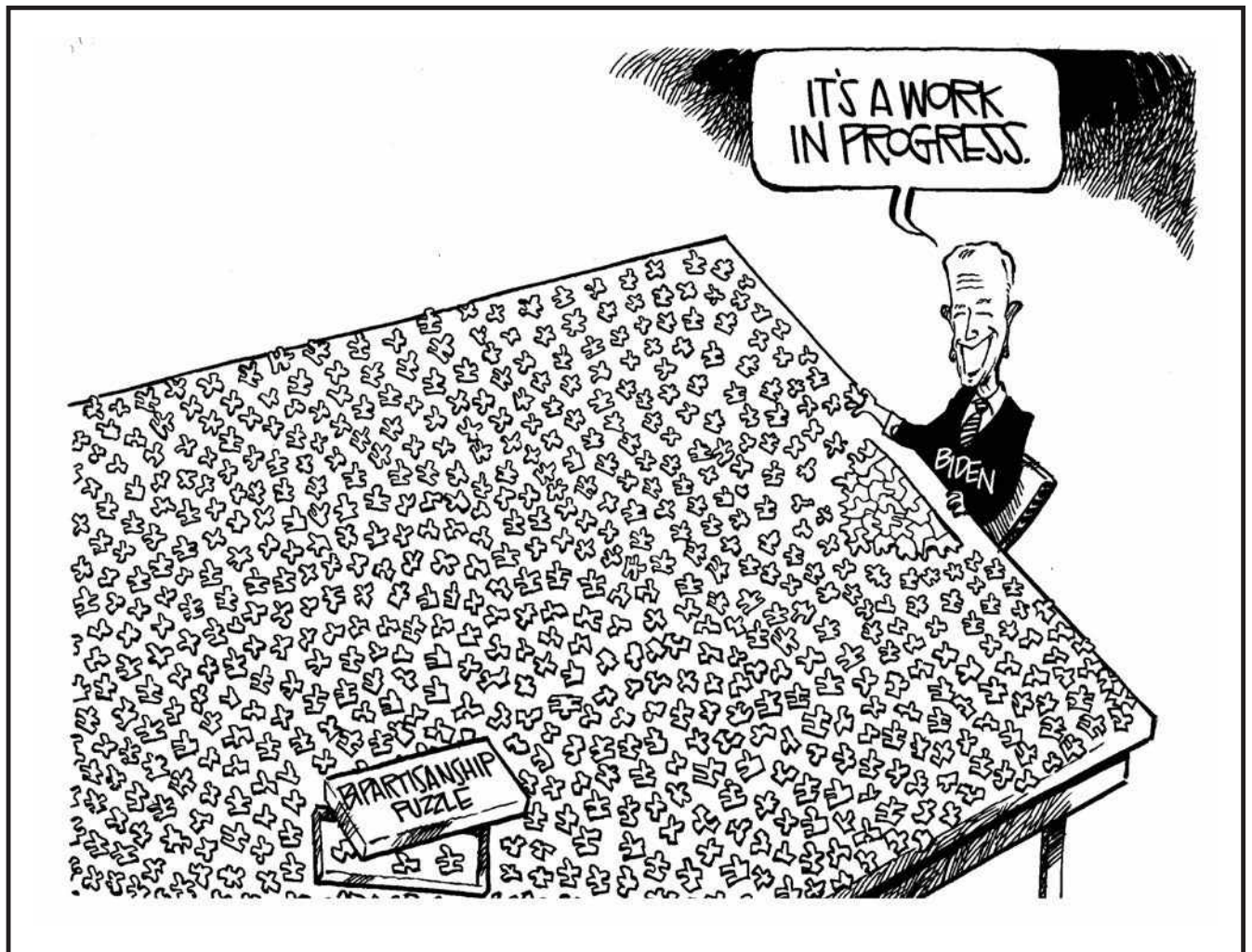
To help these front-line, essential caregivers to manage their mental health, Gov. Tom Wolf's office has partnered with the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts to provide art and music therapy. This is a creative, out-of-the-box solution that is well-documented to have far-reaching benefits for those who choose to participate.

Music therapy, once regarded as somewhat fringe, has received significant focus in research in recent decades, with results indicating that it can positively impact both physical and mental maladies. One of the best-known examples of the effectiveness of modern music therapy is the experience of former U.S. Rep. Gabby Giffords, who, after taking a bullet to the brain during an assassination attempt, learned to speak again in part due to music therapy interventions. With the help of her therapists, Giffords literally rewired some of the speech pathways in her brain, an impressive demonstration of music's ability to influence neuroplasticity.

Researchers in Italy have asked and answered the question of whether music therapy is effective in treating front-line health care workers suffering from COVID-19 burnout. A 2020 study published in the National Center for Biotechnology Information reported that listening to music or playing or singing music can reduce the body's levels of cortisol, the stress hormone. This can impact sleep quality and blood pressure, memory and brain function.

In Pennsylvania, the main thrust of the therapy program will be to reduce stress and address trauma. Study after study has indicated that music therapy can promote positive changes in mood, reduce blood pressure, relax muscle tension and improve psychological health and resiliency. The Hospital and Healthcare Association of Pennsylvania (HAP) will launch a pilot program in the southeastern part of the state and roll out additional programs as time goes on. Other state health departments should keep a close eye on Pennsylvania's efforts and adopt their own programs as needed.

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## What do radical conservatives fear in the teaching of history?

**C**onservatives have long fulminated over “left-wing indoctrination in our schools,” a charge that led former President Donald Trump to create a “pro-American curriculum”—the 1776 Commission. Groups like Turning Point USA have long targeted professors who supposedly “promote anti-American values and advance leftist propaganda in the classroom”—including, I presume, history professors like me. But what is it that I and my colleagues actually teach in the classroom?

In my modern European history courses, students learn about the rise of Benito Mussolini: That in the wake of the March on Rome in October 1922, King Victor Emmanuel III asked Mussolini, leader of Italy's still small National Fascist Party, to form a new government. That he convinced the legislature to grant him power to rule by decree for a year to restore order and to end the socialist threat in the country. That, thanks to his control of fascist newspapers and his intimidating militia forces, the Fascists, in coalition with other parties, gained a crushing majority in the elections of 1924. This majority was augmented by the Acerbo Law of 1923, which stated that the party with the largest share of the vote would automatically receive two-thirds of the seats in the Chamber of Deputies. Thus, Mussolini came to power in a legalistic fashion, undergirded by the threat of violence. Once in power, Mussolini used his control of Italy's legislative bodies to legally bring an end to democracy.

They learn that Adolf Hitler, after the failed Beer Hall Putsch in 1923, served little time in jail, thanks to a sympathetic judge. Then he bided his time, building up the structures of the Nazi party. The despair of the Great Depression, coupled with violent clashes between the right and left in Germany, paved the way for the Nazi party's rise. Hitler, like Mussolini, came to power legally when President Paul von Hindenburg invited him to assume the position of chancellor in January 1933. Hindenburg's staff and family believed that they would be able to control Hitler, while enjoying the support of his rabid base. Also like Mussolini, Hitler used the legal measures available to him—including Article 48, which allowed the German president to rule by decree in times of civil disorder—to put an end to democratic institutions once he came to power.

As those on the political right bemoan how “left-wing” professors brainwash their students with “socialistic” ideas and pass laws to forbid the teaching of critical race theory, I wonder how far these struggles to control the study of history will go. I am bemused at the idea that we “indoctrinate” our students.

**By CHRISTINE ADAMS**  
The Baltimore Sun

*Christine Adams is a professor of history at St. Mary's College of Maryland, a fellow at the American Council of Learned Societies and a Spring 2021 Newberry Library residential fellow. This was written for the Baltimore Sun.*



While there are undoubtedly exceptions, most of us present our students with the facts of history. We ask them to read primary source documents and historical analyses, we train them to interpret documents and events, and we encourage students to tease out these ideas in classroom discussions.

Students are smart. If they sometimes develop new opinions as a result of their history classes, it is not because we push them in a particular direction. Students are perfectly capable of reading a bombastic nationalistic speech by Mussolini and hearing the echoes in modern political discourse. Those students who are aware of efforts in Georgia and elsewhere to restrict voting and to allow state legislatures to overturn electoral results they don't like may very well connect those changes to the tightening grip of authoritarian parties in the 1920s and 1930s. And I have no doubt that when we study the Beer Hall Putsch the next time I teach my class on Hitler's Germany, students will want to talk about the Jan. 6 Capitol riot and wonder about its long-term implications. They will raise questions about ongoing GOP efforts to whitewash that history and to reject the label of “insurrection.”

Radically conservative politicians want to limit the ability of teachers to talk about structural racism because it may lead their sons and daughters to question the racism still embedded in the U.S. Will they also forbid teaching classes on the rise of 20th-century fascism and totalitarianism because the facts make them too uncomfortable?

History does not repeat, but we can certainly learn from the past. It offers us keys to understanding our present and future. We need to call out politicians who try to control the history we teach to cloak their own lack of commitment to democratic institutions. They may want to ask themselves why they fear the conclusions that those who study the past may draw.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com); or through our website at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

## An ominous prelude to the Fourth of July

**T**his year's celebration of the Fourth of July provides a particularly apt occasion for considering the health of our republic.

Opinions vary. One friend thinks that democracy as we used to know it in America is in extreme peril. Another believes that things are no worse now than they were in the '60s. (I assume he means the 1960s, not the 1860s.)

And a third maintains that America's commitment to democracy endures and that the institutions originated by the Founders have succeeded in keeping our nation on track.

I hope he is correct, but, at best, it's a close-run thing. Liberals and conservatives who are still committed to the values we celebrate on the Fourth of July should be concerned.

Some of this concern stems from the remarkable events of the past five years. Normal presidents don't behave in ways that result in two impeachments in one term. Normal presidents don't alienate our allies and cozy up to autocrats. Normal presidents don't prefer the dubious declarations of one of our chief adversaries over the findings of our intelligence agencies. Normal presidents don't refuse to perform a peaceful transfer of power when they lose an election. And then there's Jan. 6.

For many Trump supporters, his "abnormality" is part of his appeal. Fair enough. But nearly two-thirds of Republicans still believe that Biden won the presidency only because of voter fraud. There is no evidence of this. But whether you're from the left or the right, this fact cannot bode well for the health of the republic and the principles we celebrate on the Fourth of July.

We should be equally concerned about the fact that Trump's false contention that he won the election is piping energy into efforts to implement state laws that make it both harder to vote and easier for state legislatures to overturn the outcomes of legitimate elections. In fact, the Republican leadership of my home state—Texas—has been at the forefront of this effort to quash voter participation and increase its control over elections.

Other concerning states' rights efforts—that is, anti-federal government—are developing in Texas, as well. Gov. Greg Abbott has announced plans to build a border wall with tax money and private donations. He and Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey sent a joint letter to the governors of 48 other states requesting them to send law enforcement staff and resources to protect the border. So far, Nebraska, Florida and Iowa have responded.

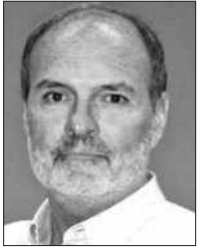
This is mostly political theater. But Texas HB 2622 isn't. As one of a host of other bills expanding gun rights in Texas, it directs police and other state and local entities to refuse to enforce federal gun laws. Abbott signed HB 2622 on June 18. Eight other states have passed similar laws. In Missouri a police agency can be fined \$50,000 for enforcing certain federal laws.

This is called "nullification," the dubious legal theory that states retain the right to ignore any federal law that they believe violates the Constitution.

The most notorious test of this theory occurred in 1832, when South Carolina, led by President Andrew Jackson's vice president, John C. Calhoun, declared the protective Tariff of 1828 unconstitutional and therefore null and void in that state. South

**By JOHN M. CRISP**

Tribune News Service



*John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, lives in Georgetown, Texas, and can be reached at [jcrispcolumns@gmail.com](mailto:jcrispcolumns@gmail.com).the United States.*

Carolina was preparing to take up arms when the issue was defused through compromise.

But the courts have never looked kindly on nullification, favoring instead the Constitution's Supremacy Clause, which says that federal law takes precedence over state law.

So, of course, HB 2622 is political theater, as well. If it's challenged in court, it's likely to lose. Still it is ominous and sobering when at least nine states pass legislation that rejects a long-standing constitutional principle essential to our national unity.

I suspect it's no coincidence that the federal laws they choose to subvert have to do with firearms.

Here's to the birth of our exceptional republic and its continued well-being! But let's take notice that a significant portion of our nation's citizenry is in a divisive, anti-democratic, anti-unionist mood reminiscent of the decades before the Civil War. Happy Fourth of July!

## What Americans should learn from China's shutdown of Hong Kong's last pro-democracy newspaper

**A**s Senate Republicans were blocking a bill to expand voting rights for Americans, the Chinese government was destroying Apple Daily, the pro-democracy tabloid that campaigned for greater voting rights in Hong Kong.

The comparison is worth making, because of the way China has systematically shredded Hong Kong's democratic freedoms over the past year. Under cover of a new national security law, and COVID-19, Beijing has diminished voting rights, while arresting pro-democracy activists and muzzling the media.

This should be a sharp reminder of the current threats to America's democratic institutions. Our threats come, not from Beijing but from within—from GOP leaders undermining the concept of free and fair elections in an effort to rig the system in their favor.

But a look at the tragedy that befell Apple Daily should remind us we must keep fighting to preserve and protect the elec-

tion freedoms we are still lucky enough to still possess.

Apple Daily's owner, Jimmy Lai, fought to preserve democracy even though he was a mid-sized David against a huge Beijing Goliath. He might wind up — as he has done — in jail.

Yet even Lai never expected Hong Kong's near-democracy to be crushed so swiftly — nor his newspaper to be shuttered.

A wealthy clothing tycoon, he founded Apple Daily in 1995 as a tabloid that combined scandal with anti-corruption investigations of local officials, and with constant attacks on China's Communist Party. Rather than enjoy his riches, and keep his mouth closed like most Hong Kong businessmen, he fought for voting rights.

The scrappy Apple Daily, one of the most widely read papers in Hong Kong, constantly campaigned for expanded suffrage. Beijing had promised this expansion in Hong Kong's Basic Law, when the territory was returned by Britain to China in 1997. The law included gradual expansion to universal suffrage for choosing Hong Kong's chief executive, a promise Beijing kept delaying and now has junked.

When I met Lai in November 2019 at his airy, sunlit home on a Hong Kong hillside, his paper was a major supporter of the huge pro-democracy protests that had exploded over a proposed law to allow extradition of Hong Kongers to be tried in mainland Chinese courts. Hong Kong democrats prize their independent courts which operate under a British common law system, not Communist Party control.

Lai was (presciently) worried that some students had turned violent, out of frustration, and that Beijing would use this as an excuse for a crackdown. "I have written that we can't take the law into our own hands," he said.

But the basic problem, he went on, was that Beijing had no grasp of why pro-democrats wanted their freedoms. "Rule of law is a basic Western value," he said, over tea and biscuits. "Beijing looks at this through the prism of very different values. Their idea is to suppress the violence, not to solve the problem."

"They don't see why what we ask for is so important. If 1.4 billion can live peacefully under more authoritarian rule, and we have semi-autonomy and cause much more trouble."

However, he was optimistic that Hong Kong democrats could advance toward broader suffrage via local elections in fall, 2019. "You don't get universal suffrage without long term resistance," he insisted. And indeed, the local elections were a triumph for the pro-democracy camp over pro-Beijing parties, creating momentum for another victory in an upcom-

**By TRUDY RUBIN**

The Philadelphia Inquirer



*Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to her at: Philadelphia Inquirer, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by email at [trubin@phillynews.com](mailto:trubin@phillynews.com).*

ing legislative election.

Unnerved by democracy's advance, Beijing postponed the legislative elections for a year, and has now arrested almost all pro-democracy leaders. Where young people once studied the Basic Law, they now must take courses in "patriotic education."

And Beijing jailed Lai last year under the new security law. Earlier this month, hundreds of police officers raided the paper's newsroom, seizing computers, freezing its assets and arresting top editors and one of its columnists. The newspaper was finally forced to close Wednesday.

All this makes Jimmy Lai's words even more important to Americans, especially those who have forgotten what democracy (with a small d) means.

"Obviously beyond the [U.S.] trade war with China will be a long term conflict with China, a rivalry of opposing values," he told me. "Hong Kong is fighting the first battle in this Cold War because we share the same values."

He urged that Americans stand up for those values, as an exemplar for others who espoused them for their own people. "America should not be ashamed of its moral authority, of its values. Express them."

And he described how he had visited the beaches at Normandy, saying those beaches symbolized "the America we look up to, that fought for freedom."

As Lai sits in prison, his newspaper silenced, facing a possible life term, his example should remind us of pro-democrats in Hong Kong who still hope for America to set a democratic example, even if it can't rescue them from despots in the short run.

In recent years, we have failed miserably to set that example. The stain of the GOP Big Lie and covering up of Jan. 6 still overshadows any U.S. effort to pose as a democratic model. But if Jimmy Lai could continue fight for democratic values against odds that dwarf ours, how can we do any less?

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

### 'It is imperative that lines of communication be improved'

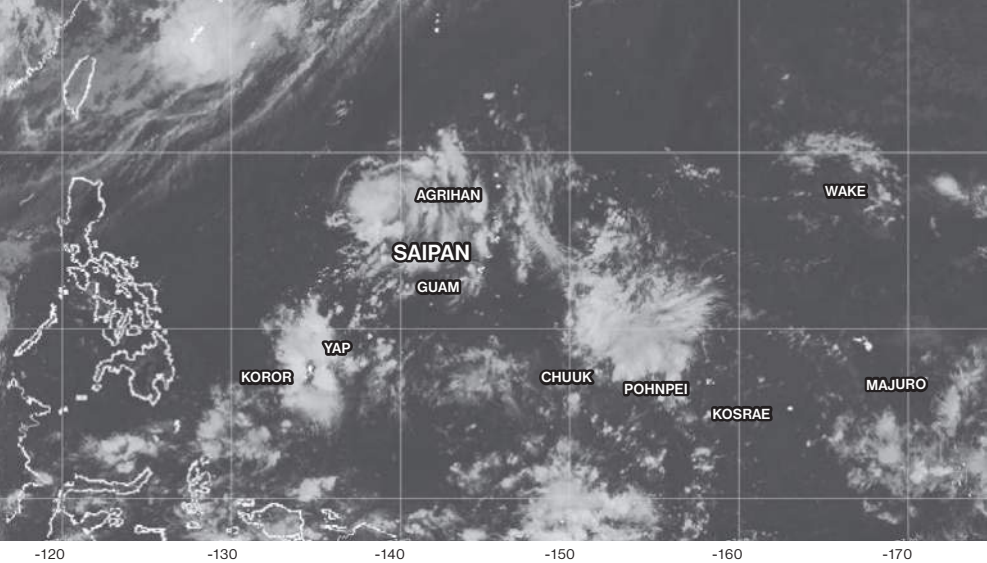
I'm glad the urgent \$1.7 trillion infrastructure deal has been struck. Roads, schools, hospitals will be getting much needed upgrades. It is also extremely important that lines of emergency communication (hopefully) have been funded. Social Services, Legal Aid have been swamped because people are in desperate trouble due to COVID-19 that has caused loss of jobs, non-payment of rent and various utility bills. People have to sometimes wait more than a half hour before someone answers plus, many times, they say "we'll call back" but don't. With all the modern innovations this great nation has, it is imperative that lines of communication be improved thereby lessening stress and aggravation on those who are desperately seeking help. To reiterate, I'm hoping the deal includes funding for improving communications.

**Herb Stark**  
Mooresville, NC



# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:13 AM, TUESDAY, JUNE 29, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite imagery shows mostly cloudy skies and widely scattered showers moving through the Marianas Waters today. There is a vigorous upper-level low near 16N and 153E, east of Saipan. The buoys reveal combined seas of 3 to 4 feet composed of an east-northeast trade-wind swell and a smaller north-northwest swell left over from the former Typhoon Champi (06W).

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

## STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

**Continue good hand hygiene**

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

**Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic**

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
  - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
  - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at [www.chcc.gov.mp](http://www.chcc.gov.mp) or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit [www.governor.gov.mp](http://www.governor.gov.mp) and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at [www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19](http://www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19).

**Rumor control**

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 76°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Thursday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	10:52 AM	11:35 PM
Thursday	-	11:42 AM	-
Friday	12:11 AM	12:30 PM	-
Saturday	12:46 AM	1:17 PM	-
Sunday	1:21 AM	2:04 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Thunderstorms	59° / 48°	
Beijing	Showers	90° / 72°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	86° / 82°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86° / 74°	
London	Thunderstorms	82° / 64°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	85° / 67°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	91° / 79°	
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	55° / 43°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°	
New York	Cloudy	77° / 70°	
Osaka	Thunderstorms	84° / 75°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	90° / 68°	
Busan	Thunderstorms	79° / 75°	
Rome	Sunny	95° / 70°	
Salem	Sunny	93° / 74°	
San Francisco	Sunny	61° / 52°	
Seoul	Thunderstorms	82° / 75°	
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	84° / 72°	
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	86° / 74°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:46 AM	High Tide	2.06	
6:41 AM	Low Tide	1.26	
11:05 AM	High Tide	1.74	
6:16 PM	Low Tide	0.27	

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2021

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7	UA174	4:50am	5:31am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	5 via Guam	UA184/174	9:50pm	5:31am+1	5 via Guam
UA117/183	6:30am	9:10pm	3, 7 via Guam				
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	6:55pm	8:50pm	5	UA184	9:50pm	4:05am+1	5
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	1, 3	UA184	10:25pm	4:20am+1	1, 3

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

### FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily	1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily	1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily				
ROTA TO GUAM							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
				2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
				2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
				2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

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**SUBSCRIPTION** Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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# Business

## Juul to pay \$40M in N. Carolina teen vaping suit settlement

**DURHAM N.C. (AP)**—Electronic cigarette giant Juul Labs Inc. will pay \$40 million to North Carolina and take more action to prevent underage use and sales, according to a landmark legal settlement announced Monday after years of accusations that the company had fueled an explosion in teen vaping.

A state judge accepted the first-of-its-kind agreement with a state. North Carolina Attorney General Josh Stein had sued Juul, accusing it of employing unfair and deceptive practices that targeted young people to use its vaping products, which deliver addictive nicotine. The lawsuit had been scheduled for trial next month.

As part of the agreement, Juul will not advertise to anyone under 21 in North Carolina, including through social media, and will limit sales amounts of Juul products online to any state residents. It will also sell its products only behind counters at retailers that have ID scanners to ensure customers are of age.

Teen use of e-cigarettes skyrocketed more than 70% after

Juul's launch in 2015, leading the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to declare an "epidemic" of underage vaping among teenagers. Health experts said the unprecedented increase risked hooking a generation of young people on nicotine, an addictive chemical that is harmful to the developing brain.

"Juul sparked and spread a disease—the disease of nicotine addiction. They did it to teenagers across North Carolina and this country simply to make money," Stein, a Democrat, said after a brief court hearing. "Today's court order will go a long way towards ensuring that their e-cigarettes product is not in kids' hands, its chemical vapor is out of their lungs, and that the nicotine does not poison or addict their brains."

Juul, which is partially owned by Altria Group Inc., has seen sales fall after already halting all advertising and social media promotion and pulling most of its flavors except for menthol.

"This settlement is consistent with our ongoing effort to reset our company and its re-

lationship with our stakeholders, as we continue to combat underage usage and advance the opportunity for harm reduction for adult smokers," Juul said in a statement af-

ter the court hearing. "We seek to continue to earn trust through action."

Several states have filed their own lawsuits against Juul. A group of 39 state at-

torneys general have been cooperatively investigating the company's marketing and products since February 2020.

Juul also faces hundreds of personal injury lawsuits from

customers and families of young people who said they were hurt or addicted by the company's products. Those have been consolidated in a California federal case.

## Virus outbreak in Fiji batters economy, tests health system

**SUVA, Fiji (AP)**—A growing coronavirus outbreak in Fiji is stretching the health system and devastating the economy. It has even prompted the government to offer jobless people tools and cash to become farmers.

The Pacific nation got through the first year of the pandemic without any significant outbreaks and just two virus deaths.

But an outbreak of the highly contagious delta variant two months ago has grown to the point where Fiji is adding

about 250 new cases each day.

The government has so far resisted calls for a lockdown, in part to try and protect an economy which had already shrunk by 19% last year after international tourism evaporated.

Nearly half of all jobs were connected to tourism in the island nation that's known for its white-sand beaches, clear water and welcoming people.

"Business-wise, it's very bad," said George Bernard, who owns a business servicing fire extinguishers. He

fears life will never be the same. "I'm just trying to survive," he said.

A vaccination campaign is in full swing but has been hindered by misinformation that vaccines are unsafe or even evil. So far, about 29% of the population of just under 1 million have gotten their first dose, while 2% have been fully vaccinated.

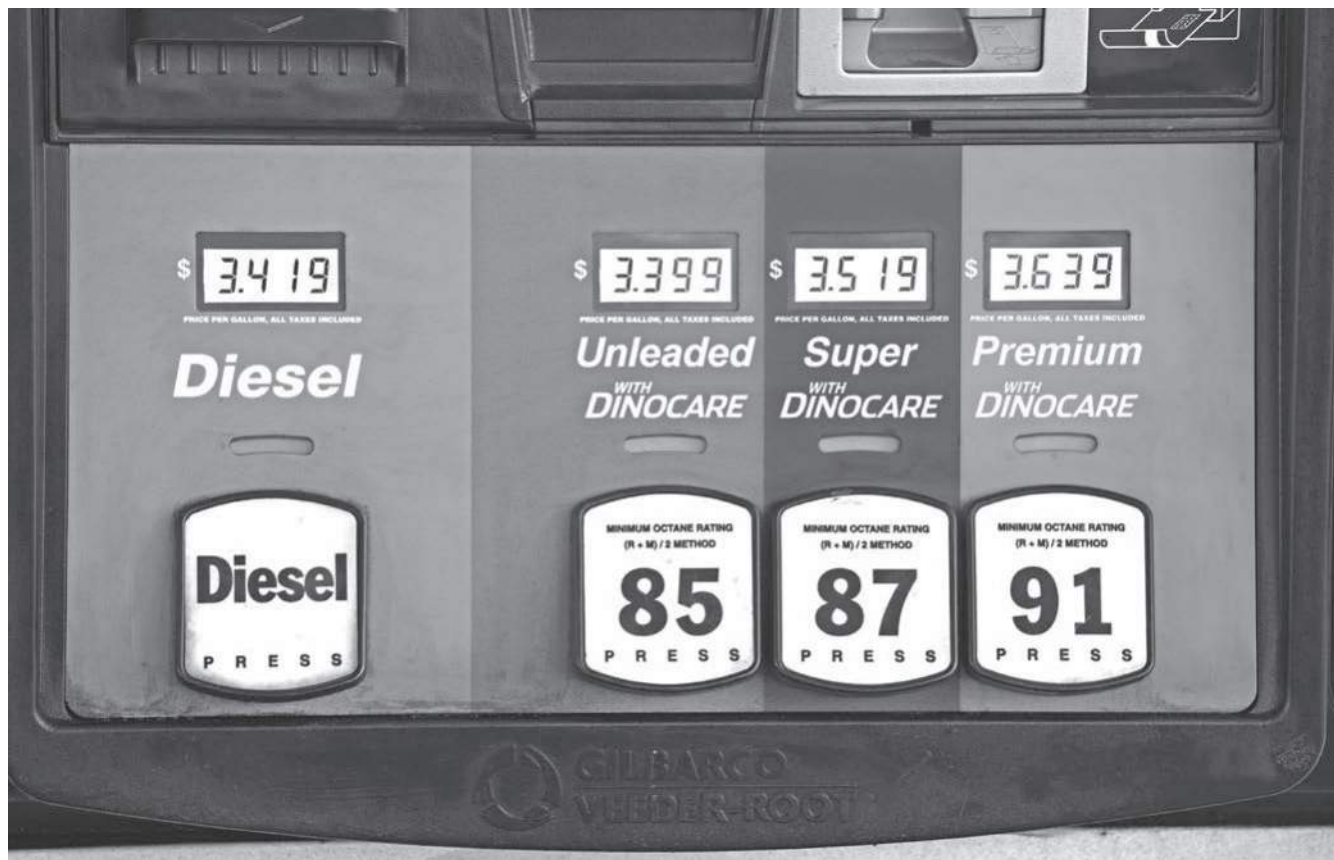
Bernard, who has heard some of the rumors, said he is in no rush to get vaccinated. "Sometimes, I have second thoughts," he said.

Nazia Hussain has been selling vegetables from her roadside stall, and she uses some of the profit to help her family members who lost their jobs at supermarkets and stores in the capital, Suva.

"I have been doing this so I can save some money to do some shopping for my family," she said. But business had been slow, and people had little money to spend.

Hussain said she'd believed the vaccine was a good thing and had taken the jab herself.

## Gas prices rise again, no sign of letting up this summer



Prices are displayed above the different grades of gasoline available to motorists, Thursday, May 27, 2021, near Cheyenne, Wyo.

After a brief dip, gas prices in the U.S. are on the rise again.

The U.S. average price for a gallon of gasoline rose 2 1/2 cents from last week to \$3.09 per gallon on Monday, according to the travel and fuel price tracking app GasBuddy.

The national average is now almost 5 cents higher than a month ago and 92 cents higher than this time last year.

GasBuddy petroleum analyst Patrick De Haan says Americans should expect to pay even more at the pump heading into July 4th, a popular road trip holiday.

With the U.S. economy rapidly recovering from the 15-month-long coronavirus pandemic, demand for fuel

is rising and pushing prices to levels not seen since 2014. And hurricane season always carries the prospect of higher prices if a storm impacts oil drilling and refining on the Gulf Coast.

"Motorists should prepare to dig deeper for the second half of the summer, unfortunately," De Haan said.

This month, the Energy Information Administration predicted gasoline would average \$2.92 a gallon for the April-September summer driving season, up from \$2.07 a gallon for the same period last year. For the full year, the EIA estimates regular gasoline will average \$2.77 a gallon and U.S. households will spend \$570 more on

fuel than they did a year ago.

For consumers, higher gasoline prices are one element of an inflationary mix they've encountered as the economy recovers from the pandemic. Rising prices for commodities and materials have also boosted prices for such items as lumber, diapers, and meat and poultry.

The Federal Reserve is expecting many of these increases to be temporary. In an appearance before a House subcommittee last week, Fed Chair Jerome Powell cited "the pass-through of past increases in oil prices to consumer energy prices" as one factor behind the increase in inflation.

While prices for some commodities have reversed direction recently, oil has held its gains for the most part. On Monday, West Texas Intermediate crude fell \$1.14 to \$72.91 per barrel, but the price is still up 50% on the year.

The most common gas price motorists in the U.S. were likely to see was \$2.89 per gallon, the same as last week, GasBuddy said.

States closest to the large Gulf Coast refinery hub had the lowest average prices per gallon, led by Mississippi at \$2.71 and Louisiana at \$2.72. The states with the highest prices per gallon were California at \$4.27 and Hawaii at \$3.96. (AP)

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### World Bank raises China growth outlook to 8.5%

**BEIJING (AP)**—The World Bank raised its forecast of China's economic growth this year to 8.5% from 8.1% and said Tuesday that a full recovery requires progress in vaccinations against the coronavirus. The report adds to positive signs for China, the first major economy to rebound from the pandemic. Factory and consumer activity are back above pre-outbreak levels, though authorities have re-imposed travel controls in some areas to counter outbreaks of new variants of the virus. Chinese economic growth is likely to decline to 5.4% next year as the rebound from last year's history-making global slump fades and activity returns to normal, the World Bank said. Its forecast was an increase over a report in April that said China and Vietnam were the only East Asian economies to achieve a "v-shaped" recovery in 2020 with output back above pre-coronavirus levels. China is on track to vaccinate 40% of its population by early summer, but "a full recovery will also require continued progress toward achieving widespread immunization," the World Bank said.

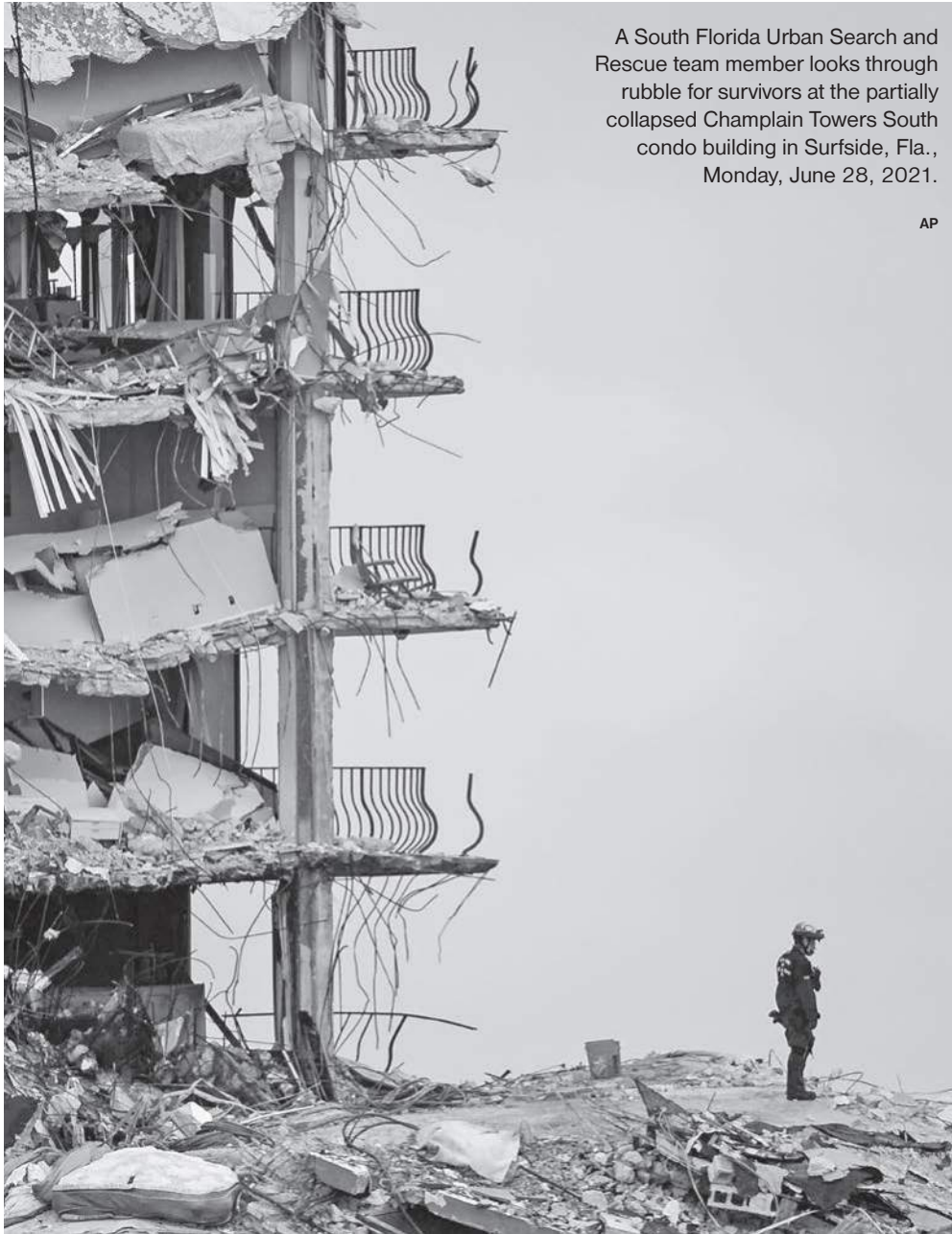
#### Judge dismisses gov't antitrust lawsuits against Facebook

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — A federal judge on Monday dismissed antitrust lawsuits brought against Facebook by the Federal Trade Commission and a coalition of state attorneys general, dealing a significant blow to attempts by regulators to rein in tech giants. U.S. District Judge James Boasberg ruled Monday that the lawsuits were "legally insufficient" and didn't provide enough evidence to prove that Facebook was a monopoly. The ruling dismisses the complaint but not the case, meaning the FTC could refile another complaint. "These allegations — which do not even provide an estimated actual figure or range for Facebook's market share at any point over the past ten years — ultimately fall short of plausibly establishing that Facebook holds market power," he said. The FTC said in a statement that it is "closely reviewing the opinion and assessing the best option forward." The agency has 30 days in which to file a new complaint. Boasberg closed that avenue for the states, however, in dismissing outright their separate complaint.



# Nation

## ‘Excruciating:’ Florida collapse search stretches to Day 6



A South Florida Urban Search and Rescue team member looks through rubble for survivors at the partially collapsed Champlain Towers South condo building in Surfside, Fla., Monday, June 28, 2021.

AP

**SURFSIDE, Florida (AP)**—The slow work of sifting through the remnants of a collapsed Florida condo building stretched into a sixth day Tuesday, as families desperate for progress endured a wrenching wait for answers.

“We have people waiting and waiting and waiting for news,” Miami-Dade Mayor Daniella Levine Cava told reporters Monday. “We have them coping with the news that they might not have their loved ones come out alive and still hope against hope that they will. They’re learning that some of their loved ones will come out as body parts. This is the kind of information that is just excruciating for everyone.”

The work has been deliberate and treacherous. Just two additional bodies were found Monday, raising the count of confirmed dead to 11. That leaves 150 people still unaccounted for in the community of Surfside, just outside Miami.

Authorities are meeting frequently with families to explain what they’re doing and answer questions. They have discussed with families everything from how DNA matches are made to help identify the dead, to how will next of kin be contacted, to going into “extreme detail” about how they are searching the mound, the mayor said.

Armed with that knowledge, she said, families are coming to their own conclusions.

“Some are feeling more hopeful, some less hopeful, because we do not have definitive answers. We give them the facts. We take them to the site,” she said. “They have seen the operation. They understand now how it works, and they are preparing themselves for news, one way or the other.”

Rescuers are using bucket brigades and heavy machinery as they work atop a precarious mound of pulverized concrete, twisted steel and the remnants of dozens of households. The efforts included firefighters, sniffer dogs and search experts using radar and sonar devices.

Authorities said their efforts were still a

search-and-rescue operation, but no one has been found alive since hours after the collapse on Thursday.

The pancake collapse of the building left layer upon layer of intertwined debris, frustrating efforts to reach anyone who may have survived in a pocket of space.

“Every time there’s an action, there’s a reaction,” Miami-Dade Assistant Fire Chief Raide Jadallah said during a news conference Monday. “It’s not an issue of we could just attach a couple of cords to a concrete boulder and lift it and call it a day.” Some of the concrete pieces are smaller, the size of basketballs or baseballs.

From outside a neighboring building on Monday, more than two dozen family members watched teams of searchers excavate the building site. Some held onto each other for support. Others hugged and prayed. Some people took photos.

Authorities on Monday insisted they are not losing hope.

Deciding to transition from search-and-rescue work to a recovery operation is agonizing, said Dr. Joseph A. Barbera, a professor at George Washington University. That decision is fraught with considerations, he said, that only those on the ground can make.

Barbera coauthored a study examining disasters where some people survived under rubble for prolonged periods of time. He has also advised teams on where to look for potential survivors and when to conclude “that the probability of continued survival is very, very small.”

“It’s an incredibly difficult decision, and I’ve never had to make that decision,” Barbera said.

The building collapsed just days before a deadline for condo owners to start making steep payments toward more than \$9 million in repairs that had been recommended nearly three years earlier, in a report that warned of “major structural damage.”

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Biden taking bipartisan infrastructure deal on the road

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—President Joe Biden will look to sell voters on the economic benefits of the \$973 billion infrastructure package while in Wisconsin on Tuesday, hoping to boost the bipartisan agreement that is held together in large part by the promise of millions of new jobs. Biden will travel to La Crosse, population 52,000, and tour its public transit center, followed by a speech about the infrastructure package announced last week. The president presented his message to Democratic donors on Monday that the agreement was a way for the United States to assert the principles of democracy and the economic might that can come from dramatic investments in the country’s economic future. “This infrastructure bill signals to the world that we can function, we can deliver,” Biden said. “We can do significant things, show that America is back.” White House officials issued an internal memo that highlights how the largest investment in transportation, water systems and services in nearly a century would boost growth. The memo notes that the total package is four times the size of the infrastructure investment made a dozen years ago in response to the Great Recession and the biggest since Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal in the 1930s.

#### House to vote on bill launching probe of Jan. 6 insurrection

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—A new committee to investigate the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol would have 13 members and the power to subpoena witnesses, according to legisla-

tion released by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Monday. The House is expected to vote on the bill this week. The effort comes after Senate Republicans blocked the formation of an independent, bipartisan commission to probe the attack, in which hundreds of former President Donald Trump’s supporters violently broke into the Capitol and interrupted the certification of President Joe Biden’s victory. The new, partisan House panel would have eight members appointed by Pelosi and five appointed “after consultation with” Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy. A Pelosi aide said the speaker is considering including a Republican among her appointments, which would bring the likely partisan split to 7-6. The aide was granted anonymity to discuss her thinking. Pelosi said in a statement that Jan. 6 was “one of the darkest days in our nation’s history” and that the committee will seek the truth about it.

#### US troops in Syria attacked after airstrikes on militias

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—U.S. troops in eastern Syria came under rocket attack Monday, with no reported casualties, one day after U.S. Air Force planes carried out airstrikes near the Iraq-Syria border against what the Pentagon said were facilities used by Iran-backed militia groups to support drone strikes inside Iraq. Iraq’s military condemned the U.S. airstrikes, and the militia groups called for revenge against the United States. Pentagon Press Secretary John Kirby said the militias were using the facilities to launch unmanned aerial vehicle attacks against U.S. troops in Iraq. It was the second time the

administration has taken military action in the region since Biden took over earlier this year. There was no indication that Sunday’s attacks were meant as the start of a wider, sustained U.S. air campaign in the border region. But a spokesman for the U.S. military mission based in Baghdad, Col. Wayne Marotto, wrote on Twitter Monday that at 7:44 p.m. local time “U.S. forces in Syria were attacked by multiple rockets.” He said there were no injuries and that attack damage was being assessed.

#### US: Big drop in migrant kids at largest emergency shelter

**SAN DIEGO (AP)**—The number of migrant children housed at the Biden administration’s largest emergency shelter for those who crossed the U.S.-Mexico border alone has dropped by more than 40% since mid-June, a top U.S. official said Monday, touting progress at the facility that has been criticized by child welfare advocates. Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra told reporters that 790 boys are now housed at Fort Bliss Army base in El Paso, Texas, and the last girl left Monday. All the girls were reunited with relatives in the U.S., or a sponsor such as a family friend, or sent to licensed facilities, according to the agency. In mid-June, the administration reported about 2,000 boys and girls were at the Fort Bliss facility amid child welfare advocates’ concerns about inadequate conditions. A high of 4,800 children were housed there in May. Becerra said his agency, which is responsible for caring for migrant children, is now evaluating whether some of the emergency shelters that the govern-

ment opened in the spring as record numbers of unaccompanied children crossed the border can be closed. But he declined to say whether Fort Bliss would be among them.

#### Northwest US faces hottest day of intense heat wave

**SEATTLE (AP)**—The hottest day of an unprecedented and dangerous heat wave scorched the Pacific Northwest on Monday, with temperatures obliterating records that had been set just the day before. Seattle hit 107 degrees Fahrenheit (42 Celsius) by mid-afternoon—well above Sunday’s all-time high of 104 F (40 C)—on the way to an expected high of 110 F (43 C). Portland, Oregon, reached 115 F (46 C) after hitting new records of 108 F (42 C) on Saturday and 112 F (44 C) on Sunday. The temperatures were unheard of in a region better known for rain, and where June has historically been referred to as “Juneuary” for its cool drizzle. Seattle’s average high temperature in June is around 70 F (21.1 C), and fewer than half of the city’s residents have air conditioning, according to U.S. Census data. The heat forced schools and businesses to close to protect workers and guests, including some places like outdoor pools and ice cream shops where people seek relief from the heat. COVID-19 testing sites and mobile vaccination units were out of service as well. The Seattle Parks Department closed one indoor community pool after the air inside became too hot—leaving Stanlie James, who relocated from Arizona three weeks ago, to search for somewhere else to cool off. She doesn’t have AC at her condo, she said.



# Asia

## Red Cross: Indonesia faces a coronavirus 'catastrophe'

**JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)**—Indonesia needs to urgently increase medical care, testing and vaccinations as the number of new infections in the country has rapidly increased and left it "on the edge of a COVID-19 catastrophe," the Red Cross said Tuesday.

The group said its coronavirus hospital in Bogor, outside of Jakarta, was "overflowing" and emergency tents had been set up to be able to house more patients. It was a similar scene at other hospitals near the capital, including in at the Bekasi city hospital that had 90% of

its beds filled.

"We are seeing record number of infections, but every statistic is a person who is suffering, grieving or struggling to support the people they love," Sudirman Said, secretary general of Indonesian Red Cross, said in a statement. "Our medical teams are providing lifesaving care, with hospitals full to the brim and oxygen supplies critically low."

The surge in Indonesia, the world's fourth most populous nation, is being blamed in part on the delta variant of the vi-

rus, which was first spotted in India and is thought to be more contagious. Indonesia reported more than 20,600 new cases on Monday and more than 400 deaths.

Indonesia has seen more than 2.1 million cases since the pandemic began and more than 57,500 deaths, both the most in Southeast Asia.

Less than 5% of adults in the nation of 270 million people have been fully vaccinated. The Red Cross called for global action so countries like Indonesia can get the vaccines they need.

## Duterte says he is open to running for VP

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said he may consider running for vice president next year when his term ends "if there is a space for me," although opponents have described such a prospect as "a joke of the worst kind."

Duterte's televised remarks Monday night were the strongest sign that he is considering calls by ruling PDP-Laban party allies for him to run for the vice president post to continue his government programs.

The tough-talking leader also publicly lashed out for the first time at Filipino boxing star Manny Pacquiao, a Philippine senator and a longtime ally, for saying that corruption has worsened under Duterte.

Philippine presidents are barred by the 1987 constitution for running for re-election after their single, six-year term. At least two former presidents, Joseph Estrada and Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, have made successful runs for lower public offices after serv-

ing as president but not the vice president post.

Vice president is separately elected from the president under Philippine law. Those who serve in the post could potentially be propelled to the top role if the president dies or is incapacitated for any reason.

"It's not at all a bad idea and if there is a space for me there, maybe," Duterte, 76, said of the prospects of him running for vice president. "But if there's no space for me, everybody is crowding up wanting to be one, vice president, let them be at this time because I'm finished."

Leaders of Duterte's PDP-Laban party will meet on July 16-17 to firm up its ticket of candidates for next year's May 9 presidential, vice presidential and general elections. Aspirants have up to Oct. 8 to file their candidacies.

In a preliminary meet-



**Duterte**

ing late last month, Duterte's party mates approved calls for him to run for vice president next year and pick his presidential running mate. Duterte initially said he wanted to retire after his presidency and was "resisting" the call, although he did not categorically reject it.

A new opposition coalition, 1Sambayan, expressed shock over the prospects of a Duterte vice presidential run.

"The alleged VP run of the president not only makes a mockery of the constitution but a joke of the worst kind. It is laughable," coalition leader Howard Calleja said after the ruling party announced its backing for a Duterte vice presidential candidacy.

Duterte has gained notoriety for his bloody crackdown on illegal drugs, which has left thousands of mostly petty suspects dead, and vulgar rhetoric, but his popularity ratings have remained high.

rivers, threatening fish and other species.

Despite criticism by environmentalists, Chinese leaders are building more dams in an effort to reduce reliance on coal and to curb surging demand for imported oil and gas.

China is a leader in developing ultra-high-voltage, or UHV, transmission technology to move power from dams in the southwest to Shanghai and other eastern cities.

Once fully operational, the Baihetan Hydropower Station should eliminate the need to burn 20 million tons of coal annually, the official Xinhua News Agency said, citing Three Gorges Group.

## China turns on world's 2nd-biggest hydro dam

**BEIJING (AP)**—The first two generating units of the world's second-biggest hydroelectric dam were officially turned on Monday in southwestern China, the government announced.

The Baihetan Dam on the Jinsha River, a tributary of the Yangtze, is part of Chinese efforts to curb surging fossil fuel demand by building more hydropower capacity at a time when dams have fallen out of favor in other countries due to environmental complaints.

The announcement comes ahead of the ruling Communist Party's celebration this week of the official 100th an-

niversary of its 1921 founding.

Plans call for the 289-meter-tall (954-foot-tall) Baihetan Dam to have 16 generating units with a capacity of 1 million kilowatts each. That will make it second in size after the Three Gorges Dam, opened in 2003 on the Yangtze, with 22.5 million kilowatts of generating capacity.

Both were built by the state-owned Three Gorges Group Corp., the world's biggest investor in hydro, solar and wind generation.

Hydropower is losing support in other countries due to complaints dams flood communities and farmland and disrupt the ecology of

# World

## Puerto Rico to get nearly \$4B in US pandemic funds

**SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)**—U.S. Education Secretary Miguel Cardona said Monday that Puerto Rico will receive nearly \$4 billion in federal education pandemic relief funds to help boost the U.S. territory's fight against COVID-19.

The announcement was made during Cardona's official three-day trip to Puerto Rico, the first for a Biden administration Cabinet member. It marks the first time the island has full access to those funds.

"The students of Puerto Rico have suffered enough," he said. "It's time to get back to school safely and quickly."

Roughly half of the nearly \$4 billion will be released as part of the American Rescue Plan Act, which was signed into law in March to help offset the pandemic's impact on the economy and public health.

Puerto Rico reopened dozens of public and private schools in March for the first time since the pandemic began, although less than 100 of the island's more than 850 public schools were authorized to do so. At the time, only kindergarteners, special education students and children in first, second, third and 12th grades were allowed to return to school for in-person classes twice a week. A month later, officials closed all schools given a spike in COVID-19 cases



A healthcare worker inoculates 59 year-old Raymon Diaz with a dose of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine during a vaccination campaign as part of the "Noche de San Juan" festivities, a traditional all-day celebration to mark the birth of St. John the Baptist, at the Ultimo Trolley public beach in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Wednesday, June 23, 2021. **AP**

and didn't reopen some of them until May.

For more than a year, many teachers and students have struggled with ongoing power outages and unreliable or non-existent internet connections amid virtual learning. Some 24,000 students failed their classes this year, with 13,000 receiving an 'F' in all their courses, prompting the island's Department of Education to hold summer courses to help them with the help of \$210 million in previously approved federal funds.

Cardona said that in addition to meeting with Gov. Pedro Pierluisi, he also will meet with students, parents, educators, union leaders and others "to make sure we hear what's happening and how we can

best support...Puerto Rico."

It wasn't immediately known exactly how Pierluisi's administration planned to spend the newest federal funds. The announcement comes three months after Cardona announced that Puerto Rico had immediate access to \$912 million in federal education money.

Strict conditions had prevented the U.S. territory from receiving certain federal funds in a timely manner under the Trump administration, but these have been easing under U.S. President Joe Biden.

The island of 3.3 million people has reported nearly 123,000 confirmed coronavirus cases and more than 2,000 COVID-19 deaths. More than 40% of the population has been vaccinated.

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### US warns that Islamic State extremists still a world threat

**ROME (AP)**—As the U.S. works on its military withdrawal from Afghanistan, members of the global coalition fighting the Islamic State group met Monday to chart future steps against the extremist group. The meeting came just a day after the U.S. launched airstrikes against Iran-backed militias near the Iraq-Syria border. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Italian Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio co-chaired the gathering of senior officials from the seven-year-old, 83-member bloc. Participants were taking stock of current efforts to ensure the complete defeat of IS, whose remnants still pose a threat in Iraq and Syria and have shown signs of surging in parts of Africa. Amid significant other international priorities, including taming the coronavirus pandemic and stepping up the fight

against climate change, the coalition is hoping to stabilize areas liberated from IS, repatriate and hold foreign fighters accountable for their actions and combat extremist messaging. Blinken and Di Maio urged representatives of the 77 other countries and five organizations that make up the coalition not to drop their guard.

#### US envoy: Children in conflict taught to commit war crimes

**UNITED NATIONS (AP)**—Children caught in conflict are being taught to commit war crimes before they can count, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations said Monday, pointing to the deadliest attack in Burkina Faso in years, with more than 130 civilians killed by an armed group comprising "mostly 12- to 14-year-olds." Linda Thomas-Greenfield told the U.N. Security Council that many of those

killed in the attack in early June were children, and the horrifying raid on the village of Solhan in the West African nation's Sahel's Yagha province saw "children killing children -- children killing children." During nearly four decades as an American diplomat, Thomas-Greenfield said, she met many victims of conflict, and the children "break your heart the most." "Children will tell you stories that no child should be able to recount: Of being conscripted at gunpoint. Of being raped. Of being forced to murder their own siblings, their own parents," she said. "These children are often no taller than the guns they actually carry." Thomas-Greenfield also pointed to the recent horrific attack on a school in Afghanistan that killed at least 90 girls, and the regular attacks on schools in northern Nigeria where "children are abducted for ransom."



# Good Housekeeping

## How to create a dazzling monochromatic color scheme

By CATHY HOBBS  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Does color have to be bright and bold? Can neutral interiors make an impact? The answer is yes. The secret? Monochromatic color schemes.

Monochromatic color schemes can be luxurious and elegant while they also serve as the perfect foundation for pops of color and metallic accents, as well as a strong sense of contrast.

How to create a monochromatic color scheme?

Begin with a neutral color to serve as the foundation. Popular choices include white, gray and brown. Foundational colors allow for a base off which to build a color palette or color story.

After selecting a color for your monochromatic color scheme, use tints, tones and shades of that color to create a color palette.

Why white?

White isn't just a single shade. From cool to warm,



DESIGN RECIPES/TNS

A black-and-white area rug adds both texture and an attractive element of black and white.

there are a myriad of different shades of white. White serves as one of the most versatile choices for a monochromatic color scheme, as it allows you to blend tints, tones and shades as well as integrate pops of color.

How to integrate color

A monochromatic color scheme doesn't have to be bland and boring. It can be elegant and luxurious, allowing for the integration of color. Pops of color can help enliven and uplift a monochromatic color scheme, while also allowing for versatility. Bringing in bold, deep, rich colors that add a sense of contrast can also create powerful spaces. Finishes such as metallics, materials such as stone, and textiles such as area rugs, toss pillows and throws can also serve as colorful design tools.

Some of these things might seem flushable, but they're not. Here's the 'dirty dozen'

By HOWARD COHEN  
MIAMI HERALD

The Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department has 6,452 miles of sewer water pipes flowing into three wastewater treatment plants that treat about 300 million gallons of waste water every day.

On Friday, Feb. 22, the county tweeted out an educational video showing a worker cleaning out a nasty clump of wipes from a plant's drain — one of 668 it was tasked with unclogging in the 2017-2018 calendar year.

Doesn't sound like a lot, per se, when you factor in all those miles. But when it happens to you, or your nearby neighbors, it can be costly. Not to mention, gross.

According to Angie's List, the cost to unclog a toilet drain can cost up to \$400. Home Advisor says the national average is \$213, with a low end of \$85 to a high of \$525.

### THINK BEFORE YOU FLUSH

"Flushing anything other than toilet paper and human waste can result in costly repairs for you," the county tweeted as part of its #ThinkBeforeYouFlush! campaign.

The county also released its list of "The Dirty Dozen."

Chief among them are the "flushable wipes," as touted on many packages. They really aren't.

Under a heading they call "No wipes in the Pipes," the county suggests that you try an experiment to prove their point that flushable wipes don't belong in the john.

Sounds like a recipe:

■ Place toilet paper in a mixing bowl with water and mix at a low to medium speed.

■ Place a wet wipe in a mixing bowl with water and mix at a low to medium speed.

"Note the difference. Toilet paper immediately breaks apart. The wet wipe will likely remain intact. Wet wipes must be disposed in garbage cans," the county said.

### BEYOND FLUSHABLE WIPES

Miami-Dade also wants you to know that most of the grease that clogs the county's wastewater system comes from single-family, apartment and condo residents. They want you to can it.

"Be sure to get rid of fats, oils and grease the right way. After you are done cooking, pour the grease into a metal can and let it cool. Then, toss the can into a garbage bin. Don't pour it down the sink or flush it down the toilet," they counsel.

The other culprits include:

■ Sanitary items. You can probably add condoms to the no-flush list, too.

■ Paper towels and rags.

■ Q-tips and cotton balls.

■ Diapers.

■ Dental floss.

■ Medicines and vitamins.

■ Adhesive bandages.

These don't decompose right away and can meet others in the pipes and bond just like they do to your skin.

■ Cigarettes and cigar tips.

The county doesn't say this, but if you do dispose of your smokes, douse them in water first before tossing them in the trash.

■ Needles.

### WEIRD THINGS IN THE BOWL

Ragsdale, a Dallas, Georgia-based plumbing company, came up with its own Five Weirdest Things That Cause Clogged Pipes in Homes list. Adhesive bandages, dentures, animals and toys, cellphones, and tea made the Top 5.

No, people aren't disposing of their dentures or smartphones in the toilet or sinks but they commonly find their way into wastewater. Sometimes you put your dentures in a cup of water overnight and accidentally knock them over into the sink or nearby toilet.

And smartphones? You know you've texted while doing your business. Now add fumble fingers. Hear that splash?

Tea leaves and tea bags aren't mentioned as often as coffee grounds for wreaking havoc in the pipes, Ragsdale said, but tea leaves swell in water and that's not swell when you're trying to move a lot of water through miles of pipes.

## 5 ways to incorporate black-and-white accessories

By CATHY HOBBS  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

When it comes to accessories, what colors come to mind?

One of the most powerful color combinations is black and white. Black and white as an accessory choice can not only help a space look and feel more modern, but it also

provides a lot of versatility.

Looking to infuse black-and-white accessories into your home? Here are some top tips.

1. Use black and white in artwork to make a bold design statement.

2. Consider black-and-white tabletop pieces such as earthenware and ceramics.

3. Complement black and white with contrast colors such as bright green or chartreuse.

4. Incorporate black and white through the use of textiles such as pillows and throws.

5. Use area rugs to ground a space and use as a springboard for your black-and-white color palette.

## YOUR PLACE: How to rid your floor of stuck-on rubber rug padding

By ALAN J. HEAVENS  
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

**QUESTION: My parents have a 9-foot-by-12-foot area rug, which is in excellent condition, in their bedroom.**

**Under the rug is green foam-rubber padding that has become as hard as a rock over the years and has stuck to the hardwood flooring like paint.**

**I have tried a plastic scraper with no luck. I used a 2-inch-wide metal scraper that removes the rubber but is time-consuming.**

**I have not scratched or marred the hardwood flooring. Is there an easier method?**

**ANSWER:** As strange as it seems, when I received your question, I took a look under our living room rug to check the condition of the padding there. Though some of it had crumbled, it wasn't sticking to

the floor.

Checking on the internet with the usual grain of salt, I discovered that the metal-blade scraper was the most-touted method of removal without scratching, even though it took one woman 26 hours.

She didn't say whether this was 26 hours at once without a break, or 26 hours over a period of months or years.

Angie's List, which said it asked professionals, recommended using such solvents as paint thinner or soapy water to loosen the glued padding and then scraping or sanding it off.

Frankly, given indoor air-quality issues, I'd go with the soapy water, but not a lot, because you might cause the floor to warp.

There were some YouTube videos available showing a variety of ways to remove glued-on padding, but most involved projects that required

removal before a new floor was installed, so the condition of the hardwood floor underneath was not an issue.

These are all sources available to you by Googling, but here's my advice:

A job worth doing is one that's worth doing well. If the metal scraper is working, no matter how time-consuming it is, go with it.

As far as using paint thinner or soapy water, one requires proper ventilation, including a mask, and the right clothing for protection.

If the job is important to you, and you are pressed for time, it might be best to contact a professional to do it.

Money well-spent.

Contact Alan J. Heavens at [aheavens@phillynews.com](mailto:aheavens@phillynews.com) or write him at The Philadelphia Inquirer, Box 8263, Philadelphia PA 19101. Volume prohibits individual replies.



# Life & Style

## Richard Marx is right here waiting—for respect he's due

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Richard Marx likes to gently mess with the minds of whoever comes to see his solo concerts.

He'll start playing a Keith Urban or a Lionel Richie song and look out to see the reaction. "If it's a couple, I'll see one of them look at the other with this face like, 'You're kidding me. He wrote that?'"

Then hits from his career will tumble out: "Right Here Waiting," "Should Have Known Better," "Don't Mean Nothing," "Hold On to the Nights," "Take This Heart," "Hazard" and "Angelia."

"And they'll go, 'Oh, my God. He did that, too? Like, really? Seriously?'" says Marx. "On my part, there's a subtle attempt to connect all the dots."

If you've not yet seen Marx in concert, he's offering a written version with his new memoir "Stories to Tell," a series of anecdotes from a singer-songwriter who has rubbed shoulders with—and supplied songs to—music royalty.

Kenny Rogers, Whitney Houston, Madonna, Barbra Streisand, Burt Bacharach, NSYNC, Julio Iglesias, Josh Groban, Hugh Jackman, Kenny Loggins, Luther Vandross, Paul Anka, SheDAISY, Philip Bailey and James Ingram—all make cameo appearances in Marx's life and career.

He reveals beefs with Brad Paisley, Clive Davis and Night Ranger and a crush on Olivia Newton-John. He made a Vixen song sound better with a little sonic trickery—adding someone else's guitar solo—and



### STORIES TO TELL A MEMOIR RICHARD MARX

SIMON & SCHUSTER VIA AP

This cover image released by Simon & Schuster shows "Stories to Tell," a memoir by Richard Marx.

watched in horror as his band was held at gunpoint in Taipei.

"I have got so many—somewhere between interesting and hilarious—things that have happened in the background of my career," he says by phone from the Los Angeles home he shares with his wife, Daisy Fuentes.

"At the end of the day, I want people to feel the same things I want them to feel about my

show—that you feel like you get to know me a little bit."

"Stories to Tell" is ultimately the tale of a supremely talented, instinctual songwriter who rode the wave of MTV fame for a decade or so and then, when the heat dissipated, reinvented himself as a producer and songwriter for others.

"It was just about 10 years straight where everything I put out had success. And then I

put out a record that I joked went double plywood instead of double platinum," he says. "It just was like a signal that everything had shifted from me in my career. I remember thinking, 'What did I do wrong?'"

He says it took a year for him to grasp the change. "I started to think, 'Well, you know what? I had a really great turn for about 10 years. And it's not my turn now. It's somebody else's turn.'"

He was still in his 30s and "had a ton of music left" in him. "I'll make it with other people," he concluded. That shift also freed him up to be a very present father to his three sons.

Marx over his career has had 14 No. 1 songs as a writer—one in each of four different decades. He and Vandross' "Dance With My Father" won the 2004 Grammy for Song of the Year. He's written or performed hits on Billboard's country, adult contemporary, mainstream rock, holiday and

pop charts.

Starting out as a versatile background singer, he got his big break when Lionel Richie heard a tape of his songs and invited Marx to help him with his solo albums. You can hear a teenage Marx on such hits as "All Night Long" and "Running with the Night."

That led to him writing songs with Rogers and then writing or singing for a slew of stars before the release of Marx's own 1987 self-titled debut album, which would go double platinum.

The book's publication is timed to the release of a two-disc companion album with remastered versions of his biggest hits plus demos, live tracks and fresh interpretations of songs he has written for other artists.

Running through the book is Marx's conviction that he has an almost mystical ability to attract and befriend superstars, something that first happened at age 5 when he met

Davy Jones of The Monkees. As he writes: "I've always had the ability to will people into my path."

Readers get lots of stories about Marx's collaborators and how he comes up with songs from a man who has steered clear of embarrassing, self-destructive scandal.

"He hasn't lived a life that is deserving of VH1 'Behind the Music.' It's been pretty even-keeled," said Sean Manning, his editor at Simon & Schuster. "But I think that he is a master craftsman. That's what I was really intrigued by—how he does what he does."

Marx in recent years has become a social media phenomenon, enchanting fans by wittily snapping back at trolls and intolerance. In June, when a guy got on Twitter to tell Marx that his pronouns should be "has/been," Marx actually agreed: "I started writing hit songs at age nineteen and the money 'has been' rolling in ever since."

## Greek police recover Picasso, Mondrian works stolen in 2012

**ATHENS, Greece (AP)**—Greek police say they have recovered two paintings by 20th century masters Pablo Picasso and Piet Mondrian, nearly a decade after their theft from the country's biggest state art gallery in Athens.

A statement late Monday said the two works were in the hands of the police, but provided no detail on their condition and on whether any arrests had been made.

The paintings were

stripped from their frames during a well-organized, overnight heist at the National Art Gallery on Jan. 9 2012. The burglars had also taken a pen and ink drawing of a religious scene by Italian 16th century painter Guglielmo Caccia. They had initially grabbed a fourth work, also by Mondrian, but abandoned it as they fled.

Police said at the time that the heist was completed in about seven minutes.

The stolen Picasso was a cubist female bust which the Spanish painter had donated to Greece in 1949 with a dedication "in homage to the Greek people" for their resistance to Nazi German occupying forces during World War II.

The thieves also took a 1905 representational oil painting of a riverside windmill by Mondrian, the Dutch painter who became famous for his later, abstract linear works.

## Woman's marital arrangement causes family strife

**DEAR ABBY:** My adult daughter is married. She also has a boyfriend. Both of these men live with her and share her bed. Her children are horrified by it and want nothing to do with their mother. They are embarrassed and ashamed, as am I. Her older children are of age but still in school. They would like to move out but can't afford to; the youngest is a minor and afraid of the boyfriend. My daughter's husband doesn't object to the share plan. Is there anything I can do to help the kids?

**CROWDED BED IN COLORADO**

**DEAR CROWDED:** Why is your youngest grandchild afraid of your daughter's boyfriend? Has he been physically or emotionally abusive or "grooming" her? If you don't know the answer, it is important you find out so you can intervene, if necessary. If there is physical abuse or possibly grooming going on, CPS should be notified. A potential solution might be to invite your grandchildren to live with you until they are out of school and able to live on their own. Your daughter, her husband and her boyfriend may be happier with all of the children out of the picture. Parents of the year, they are not.

**DEAR ABBY:** I need your advice on a certain topic. I'm in my early 30s, and my husband is in his early 20s. We're currently living with my mother-in-law, who has put a damper on

my and my husband's relationship. She tells my husband what to do, tries to make decisions for him and doesn't give him a choice about anything.

My husband and I have been talking about moving when the time is right, but she continues to put her 2 cents in. I have been treated like crap by his mother after doing everything possible to help her. I don't know what to do at this point. I'm slowly pulling away from the man I love, and he doesn't seem to care. What should I do?

**STUCK IN OHIO**

**DEAR STUCK:** Your husband is barely out of his teens. It may have been an oversight, but you omitted the most important fact from your letter. **WHY ARE YOU TWO LIVING WITH HIS MOTHER?** She treats him like a child because that's the way she has always treated him. If you want to save your marriage, move heaven and earth to get the two of you out of there so he can grow up to be independent.

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband's birthday is on the same day as our grandson's first communion. Our grandson's family lives out of town, about a day's drive. The problem is, my husband is not Catholic and doesn't want to go because he doesn't want to spend his birthday driving and sitting in a church. I am so torn. Should I push it? He was upset when I told him I wanted to go. He feels

## DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*



I should put him before the children and grandchildren.

**IN THE MIDDLE**

**DEAR IN THE MIDDLE:** Your husband is being childish and selfish. Your grandchild will have only one first communion, while you and your husband can celebrate his birthday on another day. Can you get to the site by other means of transportation to spare him the driving? He should be ashamed of himself. I hope his candle goes out before he makes a wish!

*Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)*



# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Uses a trowel  
5 Drench  
8 Skewer  
12 Buffalo's county  
13 "Yoo- —!"  
14 London gallery  
15 Breakup payment  
17 Radius neighbor  
18 White House press secretary Jen  
19 "Awe-some!"  
21 Yoked team  
24 "King Kong" studio  
25 First-rate  
28 Plane part  
30 Josh  
33 Carte lead-in  
34 Painter of ballerinas  
35 "Where — you?"  
36 Guy's date  
37 Second-hand  
38 Cold War initials

**DOWN**

39 Discoverer's call  
41 April forecast  
43 Perplex  
46 Seedy bars  
50 Valhalla VIP  
51 Spacious and grand  
54 1492 vessel  
55 Altar vow  
56 "East of Eden" girl  
57 Inert gas  
58 Actress Courtney  
59 Aug. follower  
1 Actor Johnny

**Solution time: 23 mins.**

**Yesterday's answer 6-30**

**ACROSS**

1 Uses a trowel  
5 Drench  
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13 "Yoo- —!"  
14 London gallery  
15 Breakup payment  
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18 White House press secretary Jen  
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57 Inert gas  
58 Actress Courtney  
59 Aug. follower  
1 Actor Johnny

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Michael Phelps, 36; Monica Potter, 50; Mike Tyson, 55; David Alan Grier, 66.

**Happy Birthday:** Express your feelings. Get to the bottom of situations that need an adjustment. Focus on broadening your horizons this year. The more you know and experience, the easier it will be to get ahead. Stop worrying about what others do, and start putting your time and money into what brings you joy. Take responsibility for your happiness. Your numbers are 8, 11, 21, 25, 32, 37, 44.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Spend more time enjoying the company of those who share your interests. A physical challenge will motivate you to get into shape. Being physically fit will be energizing and ensure that you have the stamina to excel. Romance will enhance your life. \*\*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Don't share personal information or plans. Focus on what you can accomplish without drawing attention to yourself. Learn by being observant and using the information you have gathered to get your way. An opportunity will come from an unusual source. \*\*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Put your ideas into play. Don't hesitate because someone doesn't agree with you. Surround yourself with like-minded people who will assist you. Change begins with you. Verify information and follow through with your plans. \*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Take a gander at every angle before you agree to something. The information you receive will be tainted with deceptive connotations that can lead to a mistake. Make plans to proceed alone and to do things your way. \*\*\*\*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Put your energy where it counts. Don't make unnecessary changes. Get along with your colleagues and people who can influence the outcome you are trying to achieve. Honesty will be crucial if you want to work in unison with others. \*\*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Question what you hear. Find out what's expected of you before you volunteer to help. Build relationships on trust, justice and fair play. Too much of anything or anyone will lead to trouble. Monitor situations closely. \*\*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Get involved in something you believe will benefit you. Take on responsibilities that honor your beliefs and will make a difference. A personal or physical change will fetch compliments, but do your research and don't go over budget. \*\*\*

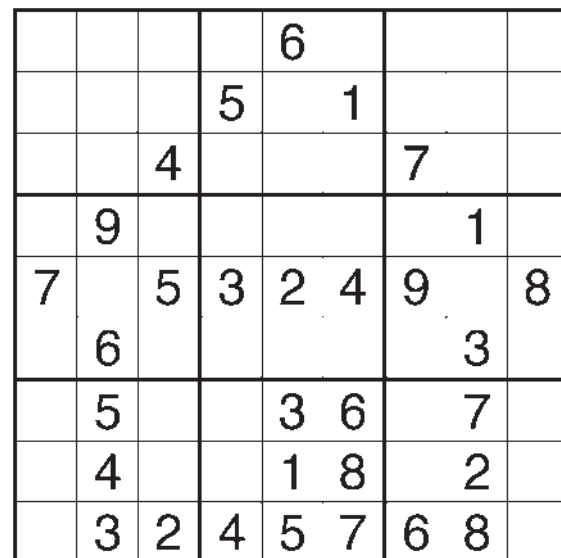
**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Think outside the box. Don't limit what you can do or let a friend, relative or lover meddle. Take control of your happiness. The sooner you let go of what isn't working for you, the easier your life will become. \*\*\*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** A little solitude will help you work through any uncertainty you harbor. Distance yourself from people who confuse you or try to manipulate you emotionally, mentally or financially. Concentrate on personal growth and monetary goals. Romance is on the rise. \*\*

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Difficulty Level \*\*\*

6/30

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## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Look for alternative ways to use your skills. Social events will lead to deception and an unrealistic sense of what's risky and what's safe. Don't take anything or anyone for granted. Do your due diligence before getting involved in a joint venture. \*\*\*\*



**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Nothing will pay higher rewards than hard work and discipline. The satisfaction you get from a job well done will boost your confidence and encourage you to take on more. Speak up on your behalf and follow through with your plans. \*\*\*



**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Fix up your surroundings. The more comfortable and convenient you make your living space, the easier and more accessible your goals will become. If you can dream it, you can make it happen. Thoughts will lead to actions, and actions to success. \*\*\*

**Birthday Baby:** You are curious, caring and receptive. You are ambitious and unpredictable.

☺: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☹: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☹☹: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☹☹☹: Aim high; start new projects. ☹☹☹☹: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

**MICKELSON WINS PGA CHAMPIONSHIP** Solution: 11 letters

E L T I T H O P E S O P H I A  
S N A E C O A E W O H S @ M L  
B L P U B W U L I I D E @ A F  
U U P C D R E R L D N N @ S R  
L F E R R E A E N O D N @ T E  
C R A A S O D V K A F A E E D  
N E R N D T U A O M M F C R E  
I W A K A R A N Y Y A E A S G  
Y O N I Y H O R D M H J N M D  
A P C N A D A C S C C O O T E  
D U E G W M H S E B T S L R W  
K C E S A A S L K R A O A E S  
R N N N N N E Z Z I M A I N N  
O I I T R E V I R D N C A A D  
W T N E M P I U Q E G S H O T

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Alfred, Amanda, Amy McBride, Appearance, Away, Bravo, Caddie, Chant, Clubs, Driver, Equipment, Evan, Game, Hall of Fame, Haskins, Hole, Hope, Lauded, Main, Majors, Mary, Masters, Match, Mizzzen, NCAA, Ocean, Powerful, Rankings, Record, Round, Sand, Shot, Show, Sophia, Stars, Tina, Tin Cup, Title, Tournament, Wedge, Week, Winner, Wins, Workday Inc.

**Yesterday's Answer: Protocols**  
Treasures 22 through 43 can be purchased online at  
www.WonderWordBooks.com.

## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.



# Gritty Clippers stave off elimination, beat Suns, 116-102



**PHOENIX (AP)**—Paul George scored 41 points, Reggie Jackson added 23 and the resilient Los Angeles Clippers staved off elimination by beating the Phoenix Suns 116-102 on Monday night in Game 5 of the Western Conference finals.

The short-handed Clippers were playing without two-time NBA Finals MVP Kawhi Leonard and center Ivica Zubac, who missed his first game of the season with an MCL sprain in his right knee. They've already fought through two grueling series wins in these playoffs, coming back from 2-0 deficits to beat both the Dallas Mavericks and Utah Jazz.

Now they're trying to claw back against the Suns. Game 5 was a good start.

George was fantastic after a tough shooting night in Game 4, pouring in 20 points in the third quarter. He finished 15 of 20 from the field, including 3 of 6 from 3-point range and added 13 rebounds and six assists. Marcus Morris Sr. was good, too. The veteran forward, who played for Phoenix earlier in his career, added 22 points on 9-of-16 shooting.

The series moves back to LA with the Suns holding a 3-2 advantage. Game 6 is Wednesday.

The Suns trailed by as many as 15 points during the first half but took their first advantage in the third when Chris Paul knocked down a 16-foot jumper for a 62-61 lead. The Clippers responded with the next 10 points and then started

## Mavs welcome back Kidd as coach, along with new GM Harrison

**DALLAS (AP)**—The Dallas Mavericks welcomed back former point guard Jason Kidd as their coach Monday along with new general manager Nico Harrison.

Kidd returns to the Mavericks nine years after backing out on an oral agreement to re-sign in free agency for what ended up being his final season as a player in 2012-13. Kidd finished his career with the New York Knicks.

The floor leader for Dallas' only championship in 2011 is replacing his coach from that team, Rick Carlisle. The winningest coach in franchise history resigned June 17, a day after general manager Donnie Nelson's departure was announced.

The 48-year-old Kidd inherits a team with a young superstar in point guard Luka Dončić, but without a playoff series victory since the 2011 NBA Finals. Dallas lost to the Los Angeles Clippers in the first round for the second consecutive season.

"Dallas has meant so much to me as a player and I want to thank (owner) Mark Cuban for



AP  
Los Angeles Clippers guard Paul George (13) passes as Phoenix Suns forward Cameron Johnson (23) looks on during the first half of game 5 of the NBA basketball Western Conference Finals, Monday, June 28, 2021, in Phoenix.

sinking 3-pointers. George hit back-to-back 3s and Patrick Beverley added one to push LA ahead 82-70, gesturing to the Suns crowd as he jogged back down the court.

It was the common theme of the night: Every time the Suns got some momentum, the Clippers were there to squash it in a hurry.

The Clippers took a 91-78 lead into the fourth. The Suns pulled within 98-94 with 6:58 left but LA responded with a 10-2 run and pulled away for the win.

Devin Booker led the Suns with 31 points. Paul—who is trying to go to the NBA Finals for the first time in his 16-year career—added 22 points and eight assists. Deandre Ayton

had 10 points and 11 rebounds.

The Clippers played inspired basketball in the first half, jumping out to an 20-5 lead by halfway through the first quarter. Jackson threw down a huge one-handed jam during the run and LA hit nine of its first 11 shots.

Morris was 6 of 7 in the first and Jackson made a layup at the buzzer to give the Clippers a 36-26 advantage going into the second.

The Suns cut the advantage to 44-42 midway through the second but the Clippers rallied again to push ahead by 10. Booker hit a 3-pointer at the halftime buzzer to cut the Clippers' advantage 59-52.

Morris had 20 points in the first half.

NBA's coaching ranks," Cuban said. "We are eager for him to get to work and lead our franchise and talented young players into the future."

It's Kidd's third stint with the Mavericks. He was their second overall pick in 1994 before getting traded to Phoenix in the middle of his third season.

Another trade sent Kidd to New Jersey, which made the NBA Finals in consecutive years with the 10-time All-Star running the offense. Kidd returned to Dallas in a mid-season trade in 2008. The championship came in his third full season back.

Harrison spent 19 years in Nike's basketball division, most recently as vice president of North American operations. He worked closely with many of the brand's stars, including the late Kobe Bryant and Michael Jordan.

After a year at Army, Harrison played his final three seasons at Montana State before a seven-year pro career in Belgium. He went to work for Nike after his playing career ended.

The Suns are trying to make their first NBA Finals since 1993. The Clippers have never

been this far in the postseason.

The 7-foot Zubac has been an ironman for Los Angeles

and this was the first game he's missed for two years. Coach Tyrone Lue admitted the Clippers were down during morning shootaround after hearing that Zubac wouldn't play.

Zubac moved into a more prominent role in these Western Conference finals, averaging 12.8 points and 11 rebounds in the first four games. He's also been important on defense as a rim protector.

The Clippers went small to replace Zubac in the starting lineup, going with the 6-foot-5 Terance Mann.

DeMarcus Cousins had 10 points in just six minutes in the first half. He made 5 of 9 shots, putting a shot on the rim once every 40 seconds on average. Leonard missed his seventh straight game.

Suns forward Abdel Nader played in his second straight game after missing several weeks with a knee injury. He scored two points. Phoenix announced a sell-out crowd of 16,664.

## Celtics coach Udoka wants to 'bring the dog out' in stars

**BOSTON (AP)**—When Ime Udoka looks at the Boston Celtics' roster, he sees a team with pieces to build around and endless potential.

He also sees a chance—and has been given an invitation—to push the team's youthful core harder than it was under his predecessor.

The 43-year-old Udoka was introduced as the 18th coach in team history Monday, marking the latest course correction for the franchise as it looks to maximize its current window to capture an 18th NBA championship.

"We're here to win Banner 18 together," Celtics co-owner Wyc Grousbeck said. "I know Ime will do everything he can to make that happen."

A former NBA player and first-time head coach, Udoka was among the sought-after names in the annual coaching carousel after gaining steady buzz behind the scenes in recent seasons. He has seven years of playing experience with five teams, along with assistant coaching stops that included seven seasons on Gregg Popovich's staff in San Antonio. He was there in 2013-14 when the Spurs won the NBA title.

He also spent a season in Philadelphia in 2019-20 and was an assistant with the Brooklyn Nets this past season.

Udoka said his collective time under Popovich provided the foundation for who he wants to be as a head coach. "We have two young pillars that I'm excited to work with, a young crew of first-round picks that we need

to accelerate their development," Udoka said. "I'll take something from all those stops, as I did as a player, coach as well, and I look forward to having success with our guys."

Udoka takes over a Celtics team that reached the Eastern Conference finals in three of the previous four seasons before plummeting to the No. 7 seed this year and losing in the first round to Brooklyn.

After the five-game loss to the Nets, basketball boss Danny Ainge retired and coach Brad Stevens gave up his spot on the bench to replace him as team president of basketball operations.

It's a lot of change, but Udoka won't be starting from scratch in building bonds in the locker room.

He already has a relationship with Celtics All-Stars Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown, coaching them when both were part of the U.S. men's national team in 2018 and Udoka was an assistant under Popovich.

Stevens said previously that he'd reached out to Tatum and Brown for input during the coaching search. Udoka said the perception around the league is that both are MVP-caliber players.

That, combined with the history and expectations of the franchise, made Boston the most attractive job that was available, he said.

The task now is getting even more out of them.

"It's my job to put them in situations to be successful, push them to be greater,"

Udoka said. "The sky's the limit with those guys. ... You have two foundational young pillars like those two is exciting to build around them, continue to help them grow and reach their potential."

Udoka also has familiarity with other players on the roster. He coached Al Horford his season in Philadelphia. The Portland, Oregon-born Udoka has also known fellow Oregon native Payton Pritchard since he was a kid.

If there was a criticism of Stevens' coaching style during his tenure, it was that he was often too laid back and avoided being too hard on players at times.

Udoka said that the players have asked to be challenged by him. That's perfect because he said he likes "to try to bring the dog out in guys."

"They're going to allow me to coach them, push them, and that's what they like about me," Udoka said. "They want to be pushed. They want to be directed toward winning. And you expect that from your stars."

Udoka said he's had a goal of becoming a head coach since he first started as an assistant, and was interviewed for jobs each of the past four seasons.

He believes he is getting his opportunity at the right time.

"If you would have told me I was going to be a finalist for so-and-so team or I could wait two years and fall into this situation, it would be a no-brainer to me," Udoka said. "I knew it would come, the right situation would come and this is it."



# Schwarber mashes 2 more, Nats inch closer to Mets in NL East



**WASHINGTON (AP)—**

Kyle Schwarber homered twice, becoming the first player in major league history to hit 15 home runs in a 17-day span, and the Washington Nationals beat the New York Mets 8-4 on Monday night.

Schwarber socked a 1-0 fastball from Jared Eickhoff an estimated 439 feet into the upper deck in right field in the first inning. It was his sixth leadoff homer this season, and Trea Turner followed with a 435-foot bomb to left to make it 2-0.

Schwarber said afterward he's not trying to hit home runs.

"I think the biggest thing is just not missing the pitch," Schwarber said. "Not fouling it off or taking it."

Schwarber took Eickhoff (0-1), who said he may have been tipping pitches, deep again in the fifth inning, his 24th of the year.

"We're trying everything," manager Luis Rojas said of Schwarber. "We're pitching him in, away, down, up, we've bounced balls. We've tried everything. This guy is swinging a hot bat."

The Nationals have won 12 of 15 to return to .500 — their only winning record this year was after their season opener — and move within three games of the first-place Mets in the NL East. Schwarber has powered the team's surge, setting a franchise record for home runs in any month with his 15 homers in June.

"I don't think we ever doubted ourselves," Schwarber said. "I think that was the biggest thing."

Ryan Zimmerman had a pinch-hit a three-run homer in the eighth inning for the Nationals after New York had cut the lead to 5-4. Gerardo Parra also homered for Washington, his first since rejoining the team on June 20.

"Huge," Nationals manager Davey Martinez said of Zimmerman's homer. "Huge."

Paolo Espino (2-2) threw five scoreless innings in a spot start. Brad Hand retired pinch-hitters Michael Conforto and James McCann in the eighth before pitching a scoreless ninth for his 17th save.

The Mets made it interesting in the late innings. Jeff McNeil singled in New York's first run in the seventh, and Pete Alonso hit a two-run homer, his 12th of the season, off reliever Justin Miller in the eighth. Billy McKinney followed with a homer to right.

The game was a makeup of a contest that was scheduled for the season-opening series between the teams, which was postponed because of a COVID-19 outbreak in the Nationals organization.

## Angels 5, Yankees 3

In New York, Shohei Ohtani pounded his hardest-hit home run of the season, José Suarez pitched 5 1/3 innings of one-run relief after Dylan Bundy threw up on the mound because of heat exhaustion and Los Angeles beat New York.

Ohtani connected for a 117.2 mph drive to right off Michael King (0-4) in a two-run first that also included Jared Walsh's RBI double. The home

run was the major league-leading 26th for Ohtani, who is slated to pitch Wednesday night.

AP



Suarez (3-1) entered in the second after Bundy allowed Gio Urshela's tying home run and Miguel Andújar's single. With sweat dripping off the bill of his cap, Bundy stepped back off the mound, bent over and vomited on the 90-degree night.

Raisel Iglesias struck out the side for his 14th save in 17 chances.

## Reds 12, Phillies 4

In Cincinnati, Nick Castellano hit a grand slam in the seventh inning and drove in a career-high seven runs as Cincinnati beat Philadelphia.

Cincinnati trailed 4-2 before Castellanos connected for his sixth career grand slam, driving a 1-1 fastball from Neftali Feliz (0-1) deep to center for his 15th homer.

It was Feliz's first big league appearance since 2017. He came on after Bailey Falter pitched four innings of one-run ball in relief of Spencer Howard.

Alec Bohm and Ronald Torreyes each drove in two runs for the Phillies.

Heath Hembree (2-3) pitched a scoreless inning for the win.

## Indians 13, Tigers 5

In Cleveland, José Ramírez homered and drove in five runs, Austin Hedges had a two-run shot and Cleveland blasted Detroit.

Ramírez connected for a three-run drive in the fourth inning off rookie Matt Manning (1-2) as the Indians opened a seven-game homestand with season highs in runs and hits (19).

Detroit's Miguel Cabrera connected for his 493rd homer, tying him with Lou Gehrig and Fred McGriff for 28th on the career list.

Indians rookie Eli Morgan (1-2) held the Tigers in check for five innings to get his first big league win.

## Red Sox 6, Royals 5

In Boston, Hunter Renfroe hom-

ered twice, the second a 434-foot solo shot over the Green Monster to break a sixth-inning tie, and Boston rallied for a four-run deficit to beat Kansas City.

Kiké Hernández led off the bottom of the first with a home run for the second straight game, Bobby Dalbec also homered and Renfroe had a two-run shot in the fourth as Boston came back after falling behind 5-1.

The score was 5-5 in the sixth when Renfroe's second homer, off Josh Staumont (0-2), banged off a billboard above Lansdowne Street.

Hirokazu Sawamura (4-0) got four outs in relief of starter Garrett Richards. Matt Barnes came in for the ninth to earn his 17th save.

## Rockies 2, Pirates 0

In Denver, Kyle Freeland pitched five scoreless innings before leaving with an apparent leg injury suffered while running the bases, Elias Díaz homered and Colorado beat Pittsburgh.

Jonathan Daza had an RBI triple and an over-the-shoulder catch of Erik Gonzalez's deep flyball to the center field warning track.

The Pirates had six hits, all singles. Daniel Bard got the last three outs for his 11th save in 16 chances.

Freeland (1-2) allowed three hits and struck out seven in his seventh start of the season. Tyler Anderson (3-8) went five innings and allowed two runs on five hits.

## Cardinals 7, Diamondbacks 1

In St. Louis, Paul DeJong homered to cap a six-run burst in the seventh inning and St. Louis beat Arizona.

St. Louis had lost six of seven before beating the team with baseball's worst record.

Dylan Carlson hit a go-ahead single. Paul Goldschmidt added an RBI single, Yadier Molina hit a two-run double with two outs and DeJong followed with a two-run homer.

Giovanny Gallegos (5-1), the fifth of seven Cardinal pitchers,

went one inning. Alex Young (2-6) took the loss.

Josh Rojas homered in the fifth for Arizona.

## Brewers 14, Cubs 4

In Milwaukee, Willy Adames and Keston Hiura each hit a three-run homer during a 10-run outburst in the eighth inning that lifted the Milwaukee Brewers a 14-4 victory over the Chicago Cubs on Monday night.

The Brewers earned their sixth consecutive victory to extend their NL Central lead over the Cubs to four games.

Avisaíl García homered and drove in three runs for the Brewers. Jace Peterson went 3 for 4 and scored three runs. Hiura had two hits and four RBIs.

Ian Happ and Patrick Wisdom each hit a two-run homer for the Cubs.

Jackie Bradley Jr. doubled home Peterson to break a 4-all tie and start the Brewers' eighth-inning flurry. Bradley's RBI double came after Ryan Tepera (0-2) issued consecutive one-out walks to Peterson and Hiura.

The Brewers poured it from there, scoring at least 10 runs in an inning for the first time since April 18, 2010, at Washington.

Tyrone Taylor hit a sacrifice fly and Luis Urias delivered an RBI double that made it 7-4. After Trevor McGill replaced Tepera and intentionally walked Christian Yelich, Adames hit a three-run homer to left-center.

## Dodgers 3, Giants 2

In Los Angeles, Mookie Betts and Max Muncy hit back-to-back home runs to begin the first inning, leading Trevor Bauer and the Los Angeles Dodgers over the San Francisco Giants 3-2 Monday night in a battle of the long ball.

All of the runs at Dodger Stadium came on solo shots. Will Smith also went deep for Los Angeles, which has won four straight.

The homers ended up being enough for the Dodgers, who had

only two hits that didn't leave the yard and got a runner into scoring position just once.

LaMonte Wade Jr. and Brandon Crawford homered for the Giants, who saw their NL West lead over Los Angeles decrease to 2 1/2 games. San Francisco outhit the Dodgers 11-5, but left 11 runners on base and was 0 for 13 with runners in scoring position.

Bauer (8-5) allowed two runs on eight hits in six innings. The right-hander — who has gone at least six innings in all but one of his 17 starts this season — struck out eight and walked one. Kenley Jansen worked the ninth for his 19th save.

## Orioles 9, Astros 7

In Houston, the Baltimore Orioles used timely hitting and huge ninth inning to get a win over the Houston Astros on Monday night.

Austin Hays hit a tiebreaking two-run homer during Baltimore's five-run ninth, helping the Orioles top the Astros 9-7.

"We had a lot of guys on base; we had some big knocks," Hays said. "We just haven't been able to get that big hit when we needed to, and it was nice to put some big swings on balls tonight."

Cedric Mullins opened the ninth with his third single for Baltimore. Hays then connected for his seventh homer, sending a drive to left against Brandon Bielak (2-3). Pedro Severino added a two-run double and scored on Ramon Urias' two-out double.

Houston got three back in the bottom half, scoring on RBI singles for Myles Straw and Robel Garcia before Jose Altuve delivered a sacrifice fly. But Adam Plutko got Michael Brantley to fly out to left, earning his first save.

"Any win right now is big for our team," manager Brandon Hyde said. "But to come out here and put up 15 hits against a really good team is big ... we're very, very happy."



# Lee sees a lot of potential in tryout aspirants

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Although the Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation has yet to release the names of players so far trying out for the national team bound for the 2023 Micronesian Games in Honiara, Solomon Islands, NMIBF presi-

dent James Lee admits that he likes what he's seen so far.

"I'm really happy and excited. I see a lot of potential from both male and female which I knew we have all along. So I'm really glad to see our basketball athletes coming out showcasing their talents and wanting to be in our program and potentially being one of

the 24 players (12 men and 12 women) to represent our islands," he said.

While tryouts continue at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, NMIBF has also started its coaching search for both the men's and women's national teams.

"The coaches search is going great. Unlike previous years where a national head coach is selected right at the start, we have decided that coaches should apply for that position and must meet the minimum requirement which includes, submitting their resume so we can see their credentials and experience as a basketball coach, FIBA certified level 1 and 2, and attendance, meaning any coaches applying for the position as the national head coach or assistant coach must be present during the open tryout period and the first part of the national program training camp."

He added that within that five-month period, the coaches will be mentored and assessed by the MIBF development director Elias Rangamar and at the same time attend semi-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation has been holding national team tryouts for the 2023 Micronesian Games every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

nars and certification classes hosted by a FIBA Oceania development manager via video conference.

"The board and I felt that this would be the best and fair approach to find the most qualified head coach to lead our future national team," said Lee.

Aside from the national team, NMIBF will also work on other programs that includes forming a junior national team and grass roots development for the sport.

"Currently, our concen-

tration for this first year are programs such as the national team program, junior national team, and grassroots such as village outreach and inter-scholastic. Then we will focus on our coaches and referees on island and get them trained and certified so that everyone will be on the same page when we do run a league/tournaments down the line," said Lee.

The NMIBF president added that he welcomes and even encourages other organizations under their umbrella to host local basketball competitions for

the betterment of the sport.

"As the basketball federation for the CNMI, we believe that our job and concentration should be that and working hand in hand with all the basketball clubs on island by providing them the support they need to grow their club because in turn, it will grow our sport," he said.

For more information about the tryouts, send email to [nmi-basketballfederation@gmail.com](mailto:nmi-basketballfederation@gmail.com) or leave a message to NMIBF's Facebook account Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation.

## UOG baseball clinic extended

Due to popular demand the University of Guam High School Baseball Clinics have been extended for an extra three



and 24.

UOG said 9am to 11:30pm are clinic times, please arrive at 8:45am for check-in.

COVID-19 protocols are in place, masks must be worn during non-workout times, temperature checks and sign-in sheets must be completed.

Clinics are free, for high school-aged players or just graduated high school players, at the George Washington Baseball Field on Saturdays, this coming July, 3, 10, 17,

COVID-19 protocols are in place, masks must be worn during non-workout times, temperature checks and sign-in sheets must be completed.

Participants are advised to use the GW Baseball Gate, near the back gate to UWF to enter for clinics. (PR)

## ROLLERS

From Page 20

against the size and heft of Tinian, who primarily played two frontcourt players and one backcourt player.

"Them they're big but I'm skinny and fast so I used my speed against them...at the end, our teamwork won," he said.

Aldan, for his part, said he didn't mind not scoring much the entire game as long as he set his teammates for easy buckets. He added that their strategy of exploiting mismatches led to their success in the game.

"We were looking for mismatches. They only have two guards and two bigs so whenever they put in two bigs and

one guard, we always made sure to put in two guards and one big. So we can always exploit the mismatch," he said. "They were leading in the early goings but that didn't really worry us and we just stayed locked in as a team."

In the open division, Hole in the Wall got the better of Mix Breed, 15-11, while Dream Girls put BB Girls to sleep early in a 21-8 shellacking in the women's division.

IT&E and Cristiano's served as the "MVP" sponsors of the MIBL 3x3 Season 2. Shirley's Coffee Shop, Eats Easy, Hong Ye Hardware, The Angry Penne, Latte Built Gym, Hot Deals, and The Game Athletics also supported the event as "All-Star" sponsors.

## Aluf Marianas Health Golf Classic on July 17



The 2021 Aluf Marianas Health Golf Classic will be held at the Rota Golf Resort & Country Club on Saturday, July 17, 2021.

The tournament is a collaboration among Marianas Health and its group of companies and Aluf Golf Association of Luta.

There will be over \$5,000

worth of prizes, gifts, and awards that registered players can qualify for. Register now to make the most of the early bird fees by 5pm on Saturday, July 3, 2021: \$90 per player or \$160 per team. Regular fee is \$120 per player or \$200 per team. For an additional \$20 per player, players will be entered for prizes toward closest to the pin, longest drive, and best overall. Deadline to reg-

ister is on Monday, July 12, 2021, by 5pm.

Marianas Health and Aluf Golf Association are intent to raise health and healthcare awareness for the community in Luta, while raising funds to go toward community and beautification projects throughout the island, especially during the upcoming summer months.

To register or for more in-

formation, visit or call Marianas Health on Saipan located on Ghiyeghi Street, San Jose (next to the CDA Building) at 233-4646; or on Luta located at the Windsong Building, Songsong (next to Docomo Pacific) at 532-4647 or by emailing Brandon Santos at [brandon\\_s@marianashealth.com](mailto:brandon_s@marianashealth.com). Players can also go to Facebook at Marianas Health, LLC for more details. (PR)

## CUKI

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the race and ride smarter, not harder," he said.

It also helps that Saipan has seen several more inches of rain these past couple of weeks, which translates to ideal to perfect conditions to the eyes of every motocross rider including Alvarez.

"CowTown is a very naturally dusty track because of the fine dirt texture. This rain has benefitted us as racers because it helped pack the track and so totally kept down the dust and made the track 'tacky' or gave it more traction," he said.

Alvarez's two sons—Alverick and Shane—proved the apple didn't fall far from the tree as they came in tied for second in the Expert Class in last Sunday's race. That gave them 42 points each in the race, but only Alverick has enough points to make it to the Top 3 overall and is in second place with 233 points. Third



JOSEPH CHIN

Devin Yumul, seen here aboard his KTM56cc, won the Mini 1 Class in Marianas Racing Association's 2021 Point Series Race last Sunday and at the CowTown Raceway Park in Marpi

place overall is occupied by Franklin Santos, who wound up with 32 points last Sunday

and 216 points overall.

In the Mini 1 Class, Devin Yumul continued to rule the

roost by winning the twin races also last Sunday and added 50 points to his season-leading 287 points overall. He rides a KTM56cc. Stanley Iakopo Jr. and Vicente Palacios came in second and third, respectively, with scores of 44 and 40 points. Harley Susulin is second overall with 230 points, followed by Iakopo's 197.

More impressive was Michael Camacho's sixth straight win in the Mini 2 Class last Sunday that gave him another 40 points and a perfect score of 300 points for the season. Second place last Sunday and overall was Ethan Yumul (44 and 264), while third place was Audie Scott Iakopo with 40 points. Mariana Alvarez is third overall in the Mini Class 2 with 214 total points.

Results of the Power Puff, Big Boy ATV, Mini ATV, Pee-wee ATV, Pewee 2, Pee-wee 1, Veterans, and Novice divisions will be published in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

## GAMES

From Page 20

tional outrigger canoe teams, the NMNPSF has good news. "[We] will soon select the coaches."

On material needs, Andrew said NMNPSF is coordinating with the Northern Marianas Sports Association. "So far we are underway. [We are] working closely with the Games Organizing Committee and NMSA in the procurement of canoes and other event materials. We are also working with our international federation—the International Va'a Federation or IVF."

The shortlist of equipment the vaa federation has requested include 12 V6 and 12 V1 outrigger canoes. "For this level of competition, 15 to 18 canoes would be ideal according to our international federation the IVF."

Outrigger canoe was originally not included in the calendar of sports events for next year's Mini Games. The CNMI

was only expected to host six events—athletics, badminton, baseball, beach volleyball, golf, and triathlon—as a condition for pushing through with the quadrennial following the devastation brought about by Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018.

Later on, the administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres asked the Pacific Games Council to add another three sports events—vaa, tennis, and weightlifting—to increase the sports calendar of the 2022 NMI Pacific Mini Games to nine.

Andrew also gave an update on NMNPSF's participation in the 2023 Micronesian Games in Honiara, Solomon Islands. He said the federation will compete in a total of five race categories for both men's and women's—V1 sprints, V6 sprints, V12 sprints, V1 distance, and V6 distance.

Saipan Paddling Club, Napu Outrigger Canoe Club, Marianas Outrigger Club, and Marianas Pacific Paddlers make up the clubs under the NMNPSF.





Gritty Clippers stave off elimination, beat Suns, 116-102

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Cuki widens lead in Expert Class

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Cuki Alvarez showed no ill effects of a multi-vehicle accident he figured in earlier this month to win anew the Expert Class of the Marianas Racing Association's 2021 Point Series Race.

The 50-year-old topped the two races aboard his two-stroke Yamaha YZ125cc held last Sunday at the CowTown Raceway Park in Marpi and finished with 50 points to hike his division-leading total to 264 points.

Barring a complete collapse in the season-ending race next month on July 27, Alvarez is assured to take the checkered flag of the Expert Class of this year's Points Series Race of MRA.

"All I have to do is place in the Top 3 and I should clinch the title and win the championship for the 2021 season," he said.

Alvarez also considered himself lucky that he's in good health after he and Frank "The Crank" Camacho were involved in multi-vehicle accident in Los Angeles, California, a few days before the



latter was supposed to see action in the Ultimate Fighting Championship 263. Alvarez serves as Camacho's cornerman.

"I came back all in one piece! Virtually unscathed," he said.

The veteran motocross rider acknowledged that the season is long and slow and steady and safe is a better strategy now that he's entering his fourth decade in his motocross career.

"I've been racing motocross for well over 35 years and at 50, of course I am not as crazy as I used to be. Now it's all about racing smart and maintaining good positions to get the most points. Kind of like course management in golf. Since I race with all these younger and more aggressive riders in the Expert Class, I rely more on being smooth and consistent. Lots

JOSEPH CHIN  
Expert Class' Cuki Alvarez gets some airtime aboard his Yamaha YZ125cc during Marianas Racing Association's June 2021 Point Series Race last Sunday at the CowTown Raceway Park in Marpi.



of times it works to my advantage because the other racers get tired or slide out and wipe out because they try to go too hard. My strategy is to finish

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## Paddling lays out selection process for Mini Games

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



The Northern Marianas National Paddle Sports Federation said the selection process for the national team for next year's Pacific Mini Games in the CNMI will be determined by a number of factors.

NMNPSF president Justin Andrew said the team's selection will be based on a number of criteria. The first criteria is aspirants should be a member of any of the umbrella paddling organization's member clubs. Potential national paddlers will then be chosen by the level of their paddling skills and knowledge, personal conditioning level/fitness, and more importantly, commitment.

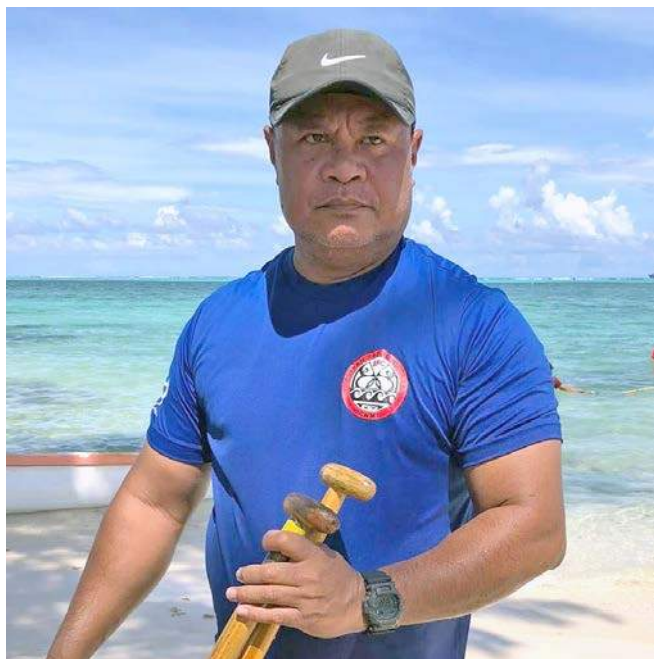
A little less than a year before next year's quadrennial Games, Andrew said NMNPSF will be fielding 14

paddlers for the men's team and the same number for the women's team, adding that numbers are not set in stone. "The figures could change,"

he said.

As for the coaches of both the men's and women's na-

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Marianas National Paddle Sports Federation president Justin Andrew said a number of factors will determine its selection process for members of the national team for next year's Pacific Mini Games.

## Rollers dissipates Typhoons in U16

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Rollers outscored Typhoons at crunch time in the U16 championship of the Mariana Islands Basketball League 3x3 Season 2 tournament last Sunday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Eventual age group MVP Leo Naraja, Frankie Satur, Freddie Pelisamen, and Lucio Aldan uncorked a 4-2 run in the final 2:04 of the 10-minute game to foil the visitors' upset hopes 19-15. It was the second U16 championship for the Rollers as they also won the division of the Summer Heat 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament on Tinian the weekend prior.

Pelisamen scored with 1:15 left on the game clock to start the run for Rollers to give them a 16-13 lead. Jose

Manglona and Tano King would retaliate for the Typhoons and make it 15-16 with time down



the nephew of CNMI Hall of Famer Tony, connected on a 2-pointer to put the outcome beyond reach.

However, Naraja would dash Tinian's hopes of a comeback with his own foray to the basket to give Rollers some breathing room at 17-15 with 34 ticks remaining in the exciting finale.

Missed shots by a scrambling Typhoon side ensued in the final seconds of the game before Rollers gave the *coup de grace* when the 6'2" Satur,

Naraja led the way for the championship team with 7 markers, while Satur and Pelisamen added 6 and 4 points, respectively. Aldan only scored 2 points but orchestrated the team to perfection with his ball control.

The 15-year-old Satur said it was bit rough going

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MARK RABAGO  
From left, Freddie Pelisamen, Lucio Aldan, Leo Naraja, and Frankie Satur pose with their trophy and championship rings around their necks after winning the U16 division of the Mariana Islands Basketball League 3x3 Season 2 tournament last Sunday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

